

Blair goes down big with Britain's bosses

IT IS a fact of no great consequence, yet indicative of something so remarkable about our present condition that the ordinary journalistic rules of simple sentence construction fall me, that at 12.30pm on a clear-skied autumn Tuesday, in a year almost within sobbing distance of the end of the 20th century, 500 richly suited men and women, individuals at the very top of their chosen business professions, busy people, people of singular intellect and judgment who between them hold the levers of power across a great swath of British commerce and industry, hastened by aeroplane, taxi, train, Rover, Jaguar, Rolls-Royce and Mercedes Benz from the four corners of the United Kingdom and

gathered in a darkened hall in a conference centre in Birmingham and sat together waiting in an excited, expectant and expensive hush, for the transmission upon a large rectangular cloth screen of a moving picture of the features of Anthony Charles Lynton Blair, and for the sound of his voice. The performance is now available on tape. How expensive this was to produce we cannot say, but it must have been one of the most costly to watch in the history of broadcasting.

I, too, hastened to the CBI conference, choosing the front row. As a talk from a real headmistress neared its end, excitement mounted at the prospect of a talk from a virtual Prime Minister. The



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH



chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, indicating the screen above his head, warned his audience: "There is a danger that at some point the Prime Minister may appear up there."

He did. "I now have a cue that tells me we have to conclude," Sir Colin blushed — and there Blair was, larger than life, on the wall.

The gap between his eyes was nearly two feet across. Tony Blair is moving to us through cyber technology," Sir Colin gasped as, through the ether, an image of Mr

Blair's dreadful tie, orange with black polka dots, was beamed to Birmingham, six feet long. The Head was frowning and nodding. "Education is your undoubted passion," Sir Colin warbled to the Tie, "we await your words with great anticipation." Might he be about to prostrate himself in front of the screen?

Mr Blair said nothing much and said it for about 20 minutes. His eyeballs were the size of tennis balls and kept flicking, so you knew he was reading a script. "Let me set

out the basic principles of a modern economic policy." The Eyeballs flicked. Five hundred eager little faces gazed up at the screen as Mr Blair expanded.

"There is a new sense of national purpose!" exclaimed the Mouth. "Together, let us get on and do it!" The Eyeballs were still. A thousand plump little hands applauded the wall.

"You have kindly agreed to respond to a couple of questions," Sir Colin said to the Eyeballs. The huge Head nodded. Odd that, although hanging in the air were a number of doubts on a variety of newsworthy controversies, Sir Colin asked the Tie to lay our fears to rest over trade union legislation and to enlarge a little on "the

challenging global targets that you, Prime Minister, have made a centrepiece of your political agenda." The Mouth knew all about global targets.

"Thank you," Sir Colin breathed, "for such a detailed explanation." The Eyeballs blinked. "We hope next year we'll have the privilege of your company in person." A very slight frown flickered between the Eyeballs. And that, Sir Colin gushed, "rounds off our conference extremely well, and on a very positive note indeed."

The slightest inclination of the Head acknowledged the tribute. Then they turned him off.

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Portillo returns to frontline campaign

By JAMES LANDALE AND NICHOLAS WATT

MICHAEL PORTILLO yesterday cast himself in the unlikely role of an amateur politician just helping out an old friend at a by-election.

Out campaigning for Gerald Malone, the defeated Tory MP seeking to recapture Winchester, the former Defence Secretary, declared: "I have no political role. I'm just a layman helping out at a by-election."

In his first foray into the political fray since his conference fringe speech calling for a new, caring Tory party, Mr Portillo struck a markedly humble note, insisting it was

too early for him to seek re-election. But despite his declaration after losing his seat in May that he would take a break from politics and "get a life", Mr Portillo yesterday insisted that he had always planned to help the party on the ground.

Mr Portillo lost his Enfield, Southgate seat to Labour at the general election. Yesterday he said: "Coming to by-elections is an important contribution. I hope to be at many other elections to help more Conservatives get elected."

Couldn't he have helped by standing for the other by-election at Beckenham? "I didn't think about it for very long," he said. "It was too early to put myself up for re-election. If you have been defeated and pop up the next day asking to be re-elected, people will say you couldn't abide by the verdict of the election."

Mr Portillo has given Tory Central Office a week of his time to campaign around the country. He hopes to give 30 speeches in 30 constituencies.

So was the tour a pre-emptive leadership campaign ahead of changes to the rules that will give Tory grassroots a greater say? "That did not even occur to me," he said.

First stop was Minstrals



Michael Portillo, right, with Gerry Malone, who is trying to regain his seat in Winchester after losing it by two votes at the general election

Café in the heart of Winchester. Mr Malone said the election was too close to call, but predicted a "decisive result" for the Tories on November 20. William Hague's "clarity on EMU" was playing well, he added.

Mr Portillo attacked Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat candidate who won the seat in May by two votes, for his "Trappist silence", at Westminster. Mr Oaten, who has apparently spoken only once during his five-month tenure in the Commons, argues that there is more to being an MP than standing up in Parlia-

ment. He has written more than 100 letters to Ministers arguing Winchester's case.

Mr Portillo then headed off to press the flesh on the doorstep. After trying three empty houses in the village of Kings Worthy, Mr Portillo finally happened upon James and Andrea Hall, a retired ambulance man and nurse. To his surprise, they were fans.

"When are you going to get back in," asked an excited Mr Hall. "You've got to get back in."

Also out on the by-election campaign trail yesterday, William Hague set aside memories of Piers Merchant's fall

from grace as he met the teenage pupils of a girls' school during a campaign tour of Beckenham, which also goes to the polls next Thursday.

Insisting that Mr Merchant was a distant memory, a beaming Mr Hague teased his audience as he toured the Langley Girls School. The by-election was caused by the resignation of Mr Merchant after he had an affair with a teenage nightclub hostess.

Henri Matisse. Learning over the shoulder of one student Mr Hague said: "You are doing much better than I could have done."

Jacqui Lait, the Conservative candidate in next Thursday's by-election, could only mutter that the classwork was "very different to our age".

Mr Hague told his audience that the by-election gave them a chance to ensure the government for its unprincipled behaviour. "You have an opportunity in the by-election to say to the government that it cannot just behave like that. If you elect another Labour MP they will be lost amongst the

mass of Labour MPs." In one pointed question Rachel Benn, 16, asked bluntly whether the single currency would split the Tory party. Mr Hague gave an emphatic no, adding that he had received a "tremendous reception" when he warned the CBI of the dangers of EMU on Monday.

Winchester general election result: M. Oaten (LD) 26,100; G. Malone (C) 26,098; P. Davies (Lab) 6,528. Lib Dem majority 2.

Beckenham general election result: P. Merchant (C) 23,084; R. Hughes (Lab) 18,131; R. Vetterlein (LD) 9,858. Tory majority: 4,953



Hague campaigning in Beckenham yesterday

Civilians may help to investigate police

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT investigators may be recruited to examine allegations against police, a minister told MPs yesterday.

Alun Michael, the Home Office minister for police, said there were "strong arguments" for giving the Police Complaints Authority powers to appoint non-police investigators for cases that required specialist knowledge.

Complaints are usually investigated by officers from another force under the supervision of the authority. This has led to fears that inquiries are not independent and allegations that the police are being left to police themselves.

Although pressure groups have raised the idea of independent investigators, the Home Office has resisted it.

But Mr Michael, giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, said the possibility had been considered when the Criminal Cases Review Commission was set up this summer. The commission has powers to appoint independent investigators.

Yesterday Mr Michael told the MPs that extending the powers to the authority was "something with which we have got a degree of sympathy" and ministers would be prepared to consider it.

Critics of an independent element have suggested the investigators would face lack of co-operation from police. Mr Michael said that he believed independent investigators would be accepted

because they would be seen as part of a team.

But he was not convinced by arguments that all police complaints should be investigated by an independent commission. He asked where the staff would be recruited from and who would pay.

The Police Federation, representing junior ranks, has already said it would support independent investigators but questioned how they might be recruited. The Association of Chief Police Officers has also said it is not opposed in principle but chief constables question the costs and how a system of independent investigators might work. The complaints authority suggests it would cost up to £30 million a year.

Political funds

Continued from page 1

on some campaigning activities to repay the money quickly. There might even be some redundancies, although that seems unlikely. Labour spent £27 million in the two years up to the election and has a £4 million overdraft.

Asked yesterday if he expected something in return for his donation, Mr Edey said: "I don't want anything. I still don't want anything." He had made the gift in January when no one was discussing tobacco sponsorship and he described accusations that his donation was influential in the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from the ban on such sponsorship as "completely stupid" and "not fair".

But John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that Labour's admission of the donation sat uneasily with its rhetoric in opposition. Then it claimed that the party in government needed to be open

about funding. "In stark contrast, this admission has had to be dragged out of them under pressure from the media. Labour would never have admitted to this donation if the spotlight on the link between Formula One and Labour had not been highlighted last week."

During his *Today* interview, Mr Ashdown said that the present system of party funding put "excruciating judgments" in the hands of parties that could lead to considerable difficulties. "It's not easy. It's important that parties should retain some of the legitimacy they get from fundraising in public. But also parties should not be drawn into decisions which can lead them to damage the reputation of our politics and political decision-making." There had to be a framework in which sensible decisions could be made.

William Hague has said that he is against state funding of political parties.

Thief may return Prince's letters

By RICHARD OWEN AND STEWART TENDLER

A CONVICTED Italian petty thief yesterday offered to hand back personal letters he claimed to have stolen along with jewellery from the Prince of Wales' apartments in St James's Palace three years ago.

Renato Rinino, 35, who was first convicted aged 16, claimed he still had letters addressed to the Prince from Camilla Parker Bowles.

Speaking through his lawyer, Alessandro Garassini, in Savona, he said he was willing to return the stolen items provided he was able to "meet the Prince and his sons face to face." Signor Garassini said his understanding was that the British courts could not press charges against his client after a gap of three years. The burglary took place at St

James's Palace in February 1994. The thief rifled the Prince's private apartments and took jewellery worth £65,000. The next day a man of Italian or Mediterranean appearance sold a pair of the Prince's cufflinks "for scrap" to a Hatton Garden bullion dealer, but he was never caught and no other items were recovered.

Yesterday Signor Garassini said Rinino, who is at present in jail for a string of petty offences, had told him him that during a visit to London three years ago he had "burgled a splendid house in London without having any idea who its illustrious owner was". It was allegedly only later that Rinino realised that the apartments belonged to the Prince.

IN BRIEF

Lords back total ban on handguns

Peers last night backed down from a further confrontation with the Government when they agreed to drop two amendments to legislation which will impose a total ban on handguns.

Weeks after inflicting a double defeat on the Government, the House of Lords threw out the two amendments which would have allowed disabled people to use small calibre weapons and competitive shooters to practise at approved centres. The Bill is now set to receive Royal Assent and become law.

Homes alert

Social housing in London is facing crisis because the rising price of land and property in most areas is making it almost impossible for housing associations to acquire new sites for development, according to a report by the National Housing Federation.

Conjugal rights

Simon Fein has called for immediate negotiations on the release of his prisoners and, in the meantime, for them to be allowed more contact with their families, including "facilities for the enjoyment of conjugal relationships".

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Children at risk

A million children in Britain could be losing out on their childhood because they have to look after an alcoholic parent. Many are abused physically and sexually, and neglected emotionally, according to reports from the charities Alcohol Concern and Childline.

Victim 'wanted'

Rudolf "Rudi" King, 22, shot in his car in Willesden, northwest London, was being sought for the murder of Mesbah Welsh, 20, outside Trent nightclub in Hackney, Scotland Yard said. Two men arrested after the shooting have been released on police bail.

Cool Yule tips

A day-long seminar for people who can't cope with Christmas has been launched by the relationship counselling service Relate. The £35 course on November 29 at Southampton City College will concentrate on teaching families to communicate and not expect too much.

Retiring rhino

A rhinoceros is being retired to Scotland because it is too old to breed. Dick, 28, will join two other elderly rhinos at the Blair Drummond Safari Park near Stirling. All come from the West Midlands Safari Park in Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester.

CORRECTION

A caption to an agency photograph yesterday accompanying an article on the Spice Girls wrongly identified the man shown as Simon Fuller. In fact it was Bob Grace, the group's song publisher. We apologise for the error.

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Little star that she see the bi

Rape victim, 50, makes appeal to her attacker

Britain's oldest presumed lost

Lords back total ban on handguns

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Sinn Féin has called for immediate negotiations on the release of prisoners and, in the meantime, for them to be allowed more time with their families, including "facilities for enjoyment of conjugal relationships".

Children at risk

A million children in Britain could be at risk from their parents' drinking, according to a report by the charity Alcoholics Anonymous and ChildLine.

Cool Yule tip

A day-long winter people who can't wait for Christmas to be launched by the national ship counselling service. The 15-hour service is available from November 20 at 0800-2000.

Retiring rhino

A rhinoceros is set to retire to South Africa because it has been found to be too old to live in the wild. The rhino, named 'Duke', is one of the last of its kind in the world.

Correctio

A correction to an article in the Times of November 10. The article stated that the group of people who were rescued from the shipwrecked ship were from the island of Enderbury.

Return

The return of the shipwrecked ship to the island of Enderbury. The ship was found to be in a state of disrepair and was not fit for service.

horn-rat

horn-rat, p-nopa, aha-sat, anukam.



Mischa with Rockwell in the film. She plays a child with a crush on the gardener

Little star is told that she must not see the big picture

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH actress who flew from New York to London for her first film premiere has been told that she will not be allowed to watch. Mischa Barton is 11 years old, and censors have given the film a 15-certificate. The little star of *Lawn Dogs* was keeping fairly cool about the problem last night — she said she would prefer to go for an ice cream with her mother anyway. But the producer, Duncan Kenworthy, whose last feature was *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, said: "It's ironic that having spent two and a half months playing this role, she is still four years too young to be allowed to see the finished film."

Mischa will be allowed to stand briefly before the audience as the film is introduced tonight at the London Film Festival in Leicester Square. She was born in Hammersmith, West London, to British parents who later moved to New York. In the film, she plays a troubled ten-year-old who imagines a relationship with a 22-year-old man who mows her family's lawn. Mrs Nuala Barton, whose husband is a financier, said that she has allowed Mischa to have a private screening on video, as there was nothing particularly explicit about the film, beyond that the male lead, played by Sam Rockwell, is seen jumping off a bridge in the nude and in a trailer with a woman. "But that's a sound thing," she said. "You might see one breast, but it's not explicit, and Mischa was not involved in it, though when you see it, it looks as if she's watching."



Missing the premiere, but hoping for an ice cream instead: Mischa with her sister Hania, 9

Rape victim, 56, makes appeal to her attacker

BY JOANNA BALE

A GRANDMOTHER, who was raped by a man suspected of a series of attacks on women yesterday urged him to give himself up. In a rare public appeal by a rape victim, the 56-year-old businesswoman described how the man dragged her into bushes as she walked alone in the dark to a car park in Saffron Walden, Essex. The man told her he had a knife, punched her in the face, and ripped off her clothing during the ten-minute ordeal last Wednesday evening.

Afterwards she managed to alert a 17-year-old youth in a parked car who called the police. The mother of four told a press conference how she managed a conversation with her attacker despite her terror. "I said, 'Would you want your mother to go through this?' and he said 'No, I wouldn't let it happen'."

"I said that if there was another rapist like him out there, maybe his mother would be next." She said she had a message for her attacker: "I beg you to please come forward. You need help. Nobody in their right mind would have done this to a mother of my age, or even to a young person."

Bulger mother is upset by ruling

BY RICHARD FORD

THE mother of James Bulger yesterday criticised the Home Secretary's failure to inform her of new rules governing the detention of the two boys who murdered her son. Denise Bulger, 30, said: "The Home Secretary has said that he will consider early release of my son's murderers. I cannot put into words how upset I am by this news. I need to know where I stand so I can do what I can to ensure that they serve the very many years that the trial judge said they should serve."

Jack Straw is to set new minimum terms that Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, both 14, must serve following a Law Lords ruling that Michael Howard was wrong to set the term at 15 years. Mr Straw will review the progress of the two boys at the half way stage. James, aged two, disappeared during a shopping trip in Bootle in February 1993. The trial judge recommended that the boys serve a minimum of eight years, increased to ten years by the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth. Mr Howard increased it to 15 years.

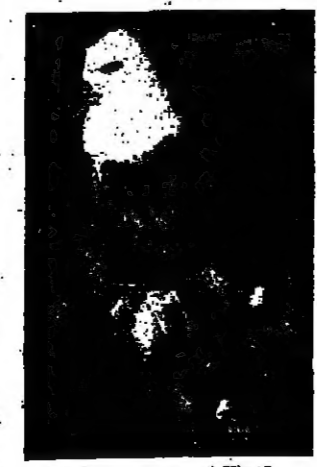
Britain's oldest bird presumed lost at sea

BRITAIN'S oldest bird is feared dead after she failed to show up for her normal breeding season. Flora the fulmar had returned to the island of Eynhallow in Orkney each year since the early 1950s.

Scientists who had been studying her for signs of senility now fear she has died of old age. Flora was ringed as an adult bird 46 years ago, and has laid at least one egg a year ever since.

Experts believe that Flora may be aged over 50. She has already outlived one of Scotland's best-known wildlife experts, who had been involved in a detailed study of fulmars on Eynhallow since 1951. George Dunnet, a zoology professor, died suddenly two years ago aged 67. The fulmar study is being continued by Peter Cosgrove, 28, also of Aberdeen University.

At the Culterty field station at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, Dr Cosgrove said yesterday: "We are very concerned that the bird may



Fulmars normally do not live beyond 25 years

now be dead. The only other possibility is that she is still roaming the oceans because she is maybe too old to breed. It would be a real shame if that is the case because I have grown very fond of her."

used to lift her leg to help them with their task. Mike Everett, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said yesterday: "This fulmar is very well known in ornithological circles because she is the oldest bird ever recorded in Britain."

Fulmars usually live to an average of 20 to 25 years. The birds survive for so long partly because of their excellent defence system: they lodge some fish oil at the back of their throats and if a bird of prey tries to attack, spit a foul-smelling, sticky substance more than 20ft. This oily liquid removes the waterproofing from an attacking bird's wings and the predator usually dies soon after.

Fulmars nest on bare rock ledges on sea cliffs and usually lay just one egg each year. In Victorian times they were known only on St Kilda, but they have spread around Britain's coastline, with the population now estimated at 300,000 pairs.

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Queen declines to fill up with 99p hot dog

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Queen was introduced to the delights of do-it-yourself hot dogs yesterday but declined to share the experience of those of her subjects who like to eat on the move.

The 99p hot dogs, among a variety of petrol station fare, caught the eye of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during a visit to the London headquarters of Shell. Both were apparently a little astonished by this latest product offered to motorists at filling station forecourt shops.

The "machine" containing rows of sausages and neatly-wrapped rolls, with serve-yourself tongs, was on display at an exhibition marking the centenary of Shell.

Hazel Catterall, manager of Shell shops' areas, said: "The Queen was surprised at the eating people do on the move these days and that there was such a thing as hot dogs that people make up themselves."

Despite the presence of large plastic bottles of ketchup and mustard for customers' use, the Queen and the Duke declined even a single bite. Nor were they tempted by chicken korma, cheeseburgers and beefburgers with relish, each in little boxes, designed for heating in the adjoining microwave ovens.

"The Duke said he had read that in Scotland only 40 per cent of people eat together as families now," Raju Sivakumaran, a regional shops manager, said. "He took a lot of interest, asking who makes our sandwiches and how long things keep fresh. He was very interested in the hot dogs but he didn't let on whether he had ever had a hot dog himself."

مکذا من لاصل

It's hard to swim when you've been running for three hours.

On average, a stag hunt lasts 3 hours and covers around 12 miles.

When the stag is finally caught by the hounds it is at the point of total exhaustion.

Scientific analysis of blood samples taken from hunted stags reveals a litany of suffering.

In the early stages of the chase, glycogen and blood sugar levels fall sharply.

As the hunt progresses, fatty acids in the blood rise, indicating high physiological stress levels.

Red pigment in blood plasma increases, caused by ruptured blood cells.

In the later stages of the hunt, high levels of muscle enzymes appear in the blood, indicating life-threatening muscle damage.

Despite its name, stag hunting is not confined to the male of the species.

Hinds are hunted too, sometimes when they are pregnant or with a calf at heel.

Stag or hind, the end is the same. A free wild animal is hunted to death.

The RSPCA has long campaigned against all hunting with dogs.

In areas where deer need culling it is more efficient and more humane for them

to be shot by a marksman.

We believe that the hunting of wild animals is cruel and unacceptable in a civilised society.

And the vast majority of the people in this country agree with us.

A Private Member's Bill seeking to ban hunting with dogs comes before Parliament on November 28th.

A MORI poll taken in October 1997 shows that 73% of people support the Bill. We want to turn that overwhelming weight of public opinion into legislation.

The 28th is a Friday when many MPs will be back in

their constituencies.

We want you to persuade them to stay in the House and vote to end this cruel 'sport' once and for all.

You can write to your MP direct at the House of Commons, or call the RSPCA on 01403 223284 (9-5 weekdays) and we'll send you a campaign pack.

And if you need further motivation, look again at the stag in the picture.

Look him in the eye. And tell him you can't be bothered.



Ban hunting with dogs.

THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

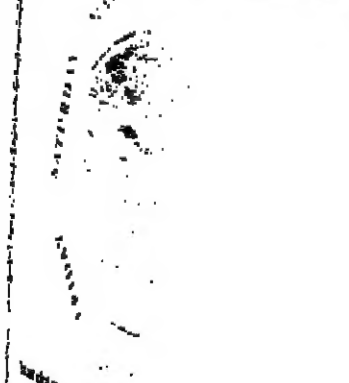


Au pair's could be more tha



Eappens stay on offensive over ruling

Help your pet keep a healthy for winter



Help your pet keep a healthy for winter

Au pair's story could be worth more than £1m

BY CAROL MIDGELEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LOUISE WOODWARD stands to make more than £1 million from newspaper, film and book deals once she is back in Britain, experts said last night. Several US film companies have begun bidding for the rights to her story.

But Miss Woodward's lawyer, Barry Scheck, has advised her to sign nothing until the legal process in America has been completed.

The prosecution lawyers are appealing against her revised sentence and Miss Woodward herself is appealing against her conviction for manslaughter.

Public opinion in the US is already turning against the au pair and her advisers are concerned that she does not appear to be cashing in on her freedom.

Miss Woodward's family had a £50,000 agreement with the Daily Mail based on her



Woodward: advised not to sign contracts yet

acquittal. It expired several days ago but it is understood the newspaper is bidding for a new contract against several other newspapers.

Her magazine is understood to have offered £100,000 for the first pictures of the Woodward family reunited.

Paying money to convicted criminals and their families is against the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice. But Lord Rothermere, chairman of the Daily Mail & General Trust, last night defended the move adding that "pedants make poor journalists".

He said that victims could only sue criminals for compensation if they had money. "If you pay convicted people for their story it enables the victim to sue for compensation," he said.

A crew from Carlton Television's *The Big Story* has had an arrangement with Mr and Mrs Woodward but a spokesman said there have been no payments made.

The publicist Max Clifford yesterday claimed he had been asked to represent Miss Woodward but refused because he did not believe she was innocent. He estimated she would make at least £500,000 for her story but the



The tragedy of Louise Woodward's time with the Eappen family has led to a frenzy of bidding by media groups for her first-hand account

money should be given to charity. He told Talk Radio: "If she wants to retain the popularity and compassion of the British public she will have to be careful what she does."

Sky News claimed that the number of viewers who watched Miss Woodward

being sentenced on Monday broke its records, with 1.7 million watching in Britain alone.

The case has also prompted attacks on the competence of childcare experts involved. Miss Woodward's legal team turned their fire yesterday on "bogus specialists in the child

abuse industry" who had whipped up hysteria.

Mr Scheck said that the American National Academy of the Sciences should put together a team to define "shaken baby syndrome" and other supposed symptoms of child abuse.

Writing in yesterday's *Wall*

Street Journal, Harvey Silverglade, another of Miss Woodward's team, called for a crusade against "junk science". He blamed her original conviction for murder on the manipulation of the jury by "ideologically motivated physicians, social scientists and social workers who proceed

from trial to trial offering seemingly incontrovertible scientific evidence that a seriously injured child had to have been the victim of abuse, rather than of accident or even illness".

Nigella Lawson, page 20
Letters, page 23

Eappens stay on offensive over ruling

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN CAMBRIDGE

THE mother of Matthew Eappen criticised Judge Hiller Zobel yesterday for freeing Louise Woodward. While newspaper editorials across America greeted her release with approval, Deborah Eappen said: "To see Louise essentially exonerated, released to the cheers of her fan club—to see her as some kind of hero—what is Judge Zobel thinking?"

Polls suggested that popular opinion, while in favour of the judge's ruling to reduce the charges to manslaughter, was against his decision to free her so soon. In a joint poll conducted by the newspaper *USA Today*, CNN television and Gallup, 52 per cent disapproved of the au pair's release, with 37 per cent in favour.

In an interview with *The Boston Globe*, Deborah Eappen attacked what the judge described as "a compassionate conclusion". She said: "Compassionate for whom? For a defendant who didn't ask for compassion? For a defendant who didn't take responsibility, who denies what she did, who is in denial about the seriousness of her actions?"

She added: "Louise killed

Matty, and Judge Zobel at once admits that and then does not make her take responsibility for what she did. Would he do that for a poor black or Hispanic defendant?"

In an editorial entitled "Judge Zobel's justice" *The Boston Globe* said "the Woodward trial, for all its intricacies and turns, has come to a just conclusion". The *New York Times* reached the same conclusion. It said: "By finding Ms Woodward guilty but sentencing her to the 279 days she has already served, Judge Zobel made use of a safety valve in Massachusetts law designed to serve justice in those rare cases when a conscientious jury produces a bad decision."

But the *New York Post* and the *Boston Herald*, two tabloid newspapers with large circulations disagreed. The *Post* said: "We don't know how many guilty-as-sin muggers, rapists and worse are going to be citing this directed verdict to justify lenient treatment for themselves—but we would guess that it'll be a lot. And they'll have a point."

The *Herald* asked "So this is justice?"

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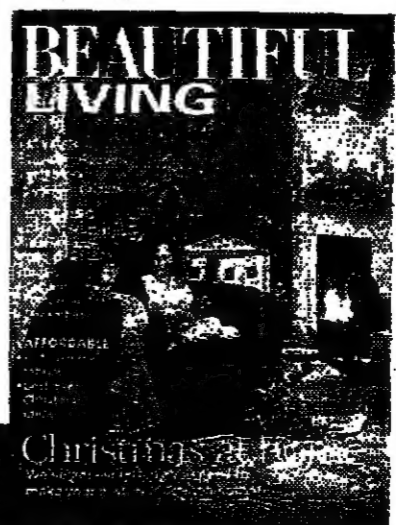
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You know
how some homes
feel right
the moment you
walk in.
”



OUT ON NOVEMBER 11TH

New Irish President makes peace priority

Mary McAleese aims to end bitter enmities, reports Audrey Magee

MARY MCALEESE was sworn in as the eighth President of Ireland yesterday and pledged to use her seven-year term to bring peace to Ulster.

Mrs McAleese, a former Belfast law professor and first Irish President from Northern Ireland, said it was possible to end the enmity between Unionists and nationalists if people across Ireland worked with her to create a "wonderful millennium gift" of peace.

A Roman Catholic and unapologetic nationalist from Ardoyne in Belfast, Mrs McAleese said that she wanted to help to unite nationalists and Unionists. Neither side had a monopoly on pain and both had suffered intensely from the 28 years of conflict, she said.

"We hope and pray, indeed we insist, that we have seen the last of violence. We demand the right to solve our problems by dialogue and the noble pursuit of consensus," she said.

Mrs McAleese acknowledged, however, that mistrust ran deep and that to speak of reconciliation was to "raise a nervous query" in those in Northern Ireland who support British rule. She said it was fitting that her inauguration in Dublin Castle coincided with Armistice Day, the day to remember Unionists and na-



Mrs McAleese's children look on as she takes the oath of office during the inauguration at Dublin Castle

dionalists who fought side by side during the world wars.

Mrs McAleese declined, however, to wear a poppy to remember the dead. The flower is widely viewed by nationalists as a symbol of Unionism.

Her pledge to build bridges was undermined, however, by the absence of Ulster's Unionists at the inauguration ceremony. They declined invitations in protest at Articles 2

and 3 of the Irish Constitution laying territorial claim to Northern Ireland.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, was among the 600 guests in St Patrick's Hall. He sat next to John Hume, SDLP leader, who was next to Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

Lord Alderdice, the Alliance Party leader, was also present despite his call to Mrs McAleese to stand down after

it was alleged during the election campaign that she was a Sinn Féin supporter. Lord Alderdice sat next to George Mitchell, the former US senator and chairman of the Stormont talks. Mary Robinson, the former President, sat behind Mrs McAleese.

Among guests personally invited by Mrs McAleese to the ceremony, where dress was informal for the first time, were the poet Seamus Heaney, the former Beirut hostage Brian Keenan and Anne Maguire, one of the Maguire Seven alleged in 1974 to have housed a bomb-making factory in London.

Mrs McAleese, 46, also drew up a list of 25 guests to represent the various strands of Irish life, including an Irish dancer, waitress and journalist. She included one Unionist in her list, Harvey Bicker, a UUP councillor from Down and friend of Mrs McAleese.

Her speech met with a frosty reception from Unionists. Jeffrey Donaldson, UUP MP for Lagan Valley, said Mrs McAleese would have to back words with deeds.

"If she wants to be a bridge builder she will have to encourage the Irish Government to drop its constitutional claim over Northern Ireland," he said.



School pupils greet Mary McAleese after the ceremony in which many strands of Irish life were represented

Robinson attacks UN's record

By MICHAEL BIVON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MARY ROBINSON, the former President of Ireland, yesterday launched a scathing attack on her new employer, the United Nations, accusing it of wasting billions of dollars and failing "on a scale that shames us all".

The newly appointed UN Commissioner for Human Rights, speaking in

Oxford, said that the UN had "lost the plot" on fighting abuses and that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was no occasion for celebration.

She said: "We still have widespread discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religious belief or sexual orientation and there is still genocide—twice in this decade alone. There are 48

countries with more than one fifth of the population living in what we have grown used to calling 'absolute poverty'.

She said such failures cried out for a fresh approach and said she would be writing to all Governments to support her work, and to all foreign ministers to review the results of the Vienna human rights convention five years after its signature.

Ukrainian sailor tried to swap lethal pen for TV

A UKRAINIAN sailor who tried to swap a James Bond-style pen gun for a colour television was fined £500 yesterday. Alexander Osipenko told a shopkeeper he tried to do the deal with: "You have burglars, you kill them, bye bye."

A police armorer said the device could fire shotgun pellets or CS gas bullets, and could be lethal.

Janet Furlonger, for the prosecution, told Carmarthen Magistrates Court that the 35-year-old Ukrainian was third in command on the *Zodiak*, a Russian fish factory ship. She said he and a shipmate went into the Cornish port of Falmouth looking for electrical goods. The pair went into the Dig and Delve second-hand shop and inquired about a television set. Osipenko then pulled out the fountain pen gun from his jacket pocket and offered it to Geoffrey Camden-Wiles, the shopkeeper.

The Ukrainian then demonstrated how to unscrew the pen and load a bullet. Mr Camden-Wiles alerted police and Customs officers who boarded the *Zodiak*, arrested the men and confiscated the gun.

When interviewed by police Osipenko claimed that the remark about shooting burglars was a joke. Fred Howell, for the defence, apologised to the court on his client's behalf. He said: "Osipenko has never been in trouble with the police, does not associate with criminals and does not like guns. He had been given the pen gun by a friend. Osipenko is paid only £45 a week even though he is in command on the ship that has 69 crew."

Through a translator, Osipenko admitted a charge of possessing a firearm which was disguised as a pen. He was fined £500 plus £54 costs. The gun was destroyed.

Bulgaria in Crisis

LEFT TO FREEZE

Yordan, 14, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 orphans in Bulgaria's orphanages.



No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

£28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

I enclose £ to save Bulgarian orphanage children. Cheques to The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST K18339, 64 Queen Street, LONDON, EC4A 4AR or call 01273 299399 NOW. Registered Charity No. 1048737

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Signature _____ Date _____

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Postcode _____ Telephone no. _____

Return to: Tanya Baroz, (72), Bulgaria Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST K18339, 64 Queen Street, LONDON, EC4A 4AR or call 01273 299399 NOW. Registered Charity No. 1048737

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Teenager weeks before

Parents take Blunkett to court over school ban

Unruly family of 11 evicted by judges

RYA - MOMBASA

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Gift made Ecclestone a champion party backer

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

BERNIE ECCLESTONE'S admission yesterday that in January he gave Labour £1 million places him in pole position among backers of the people's party.

Only Matthew Harding, the Chelsea Football Club vice-chairman who died last year, matched the generosity of the Formula One king, who was paid £54 million last year and gave the Tories £8 million before his change of heart.

Mr Harding also gave £1 million to Labour offers shortly before his death in a helicopter crash. Next in line is the millionaire publisher Paul Hamlyn, who has contributed £600,000 to the party. But these kinds of gifts, unheard of back in the early 1980s when Labour was still at odds with the bosses, are no rich man's whim. They represent the fruits of a concerted attempt by Tony Blair and his lieutenants to widen his party's appeal and recruit support and cash from some of Britain's most dynamic entrepreneurs.

In Labour's annual accounts, they are coyly referred to as "high value donors". The latest set of accounts highlight the way the boardroom brethren are rapidly replacing the unions as the main source of Labour funds. Labour's total net income in 1996 was £17.1 million - 37 per cent up on the previous year. At £7.7 million the unions provided 45 per cent of the total. But at £6.2 million (37 per cent), fundraising was not far behind. Of this sum, £3.5 million came from the kind of people Labour once denounced as fat cats.

In 1986, the unions accounted for 76 per cent of Labour income, while activities such as tapping the pockets of rich businessmen yielded a measly 6 per cent.

Unlike the Tories, for the past two years Labour has published the names of its wealthy backers, defined as those who give more than

£5,000 a year. But it does not specify the amounts given. Observers are left to speculate, unless a donor goes public. Had Labour not returned the money to Mr Ecclestone, his name would have appeared among the list for 1997, to be published next September. But there would have been no mention of £1 million.

In 1995, Labour received one-off donations above £5,000 from 17 sources. They included Geoffrey Robinson, the millionaire Labour MP and Paymaster General, big unions such as the GMB and the sugar company Tate & Lyle. In addition, seven sponsors, including Kingfisher and the Mirror Group, made regular donations totalling more than £5,000.

By 1996, the list of one-off donors had swelled to 55 names, with a further 11 organisations making regular donations. Mr Blair's backers include the actor Jeremy Irons, the supermarket boss David Sainsbury, Robin Ashby, a PR consultant, Richard Faulkner, joint managing director of Westminster Communications, a lobbying firm, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, a Lloyd's underwriter and chairman of Martin Stowe Estates, and Creation Records, Oasis's label.

No figures appear against their names, but some businessmen have chosen to go public. They include Leslie Silver, former chairman of Leeds United Football Club, who gave £25,000, and Robert Gavron, chairman of the Guardian Media Group, who gave £100,000.

Amid much controversy, some donors have been given peerages. They include Mr Sainsbury, Swraj Paul, the Indian-born chairman of the Caparo Group, a family-owned steel business, the film director Sir David Putnam, Michael Montague, a wealthy businessman who used to run the English Tourist Board, and the writer Ruth Rendell.



Bernie Ecclestone and his Croatian wife Savica, a former model set to become Britain's wealthiest woman

£1m was small change to the tycoon called Bernie the Bolt

Dominic Kennedy on the life and style of the billionaire Labour supporter who got his money back

WHEN Tony Blair first shook hands with Bernie Ecclestone he was simply the latest in a long line to benefit from the Formula One supremo's Midas touch. For Labour it was a million-pound handshake. For Mr Ecclestone, soon to be a billionaire from the rotation of his racing empire, it was small change.

The 5ft 4in 67-year-old trawlerman's son lives and works from a nine storey £7 million Knightsbridge mansion. For tax reasons 80 per cent of his business is owned by his 5ft 2in Croatian wife Savica, who is more than 25 years his junior.

He met the former Armani model, his second wife, at the Monza circuit in 1981 and married her in 1985. Savica, the daughter of a fireman who left school at 16 is said to be the person he trusts most with his business affairs. She will become Britain's wealthiest woman when he floats the £1.5 billion Formula One Holdings on the stock market next year, netting the family between £750 million and £1 billion.

His office and home are decorated by Spanish paintings and a valuable collection of netsukes, finely carved miniature Japanese sculptures. When in London he patronises ultra-fashionable restaurants, where he has been seen dining with leading politicians.

However, most of his year is spent working 16-hour days in a long, sleek, grey executive coach known as "Bernie's Bus", a familiar sight at Grand Prix circuits where a never-ending procession of owners, managers, agents and drivers conduct the succession of deals that keeps the Formula One juggernaut on the road.

The intense loyalty he commands from most people in the sport is based on the huge amount of money he has brought into the game, transferring obscure engineers into multimillionaire managing directors of race teams.

His trusted lieutenant is an Italian known as Pasquale, the only person to call him "Mr Ecclestone". To everyone else he is "Mr E", "Bernie", "The Little Man", or "Bernie the Bolt".

He is a sharp dresser wearing shirt, tie and slacks. With a cockney accent refined to fit the company he keeps, he is the master of the one-liner. When environmentalists threatened to shoot him because some trees had been chopped down to create the Melbourne racing circuit, he quipped: "They had better get me with the first shot."

Mr Ecclestone was born in Suffolk and later moved to Berley in Kent. He studied chemical engineering at Woolwich Polytechnic, but had bought and sold motorcycles from the age of 15 and made his fortune from car auctions, and a chain of motorcycle dealerships. Using the money

to indulge his passion he raced motorcycles and 500cc single-seater Formula Three cars against Stirling Moss in the 1950s.

He bought the Connaught Formula One team in 1958 then sold his businesses, which had expanded to include property and finance, for a huge sum before purchasing the troubled Brabham team in 1970, winning two world titles with Nelson Piquet.

By the late 1980s he had grown out of running one team and saw an opportunity to extend his power, leading an attempted takeover of racing teams to rival the sports ruling body the FIA. He became the FIA's vice-president and formed the Formula One Constructors Association, the main base of his power.

He prides himself on his probity and reputation for doing a deal on a handshake, and has always been able to joke about malicious gossip surrounding the rapid rise of a former second-hand car salesman from southeast London.

How can Blair have missed danger signs?

TONY BLAIR and his advisers quickly need to learn the difference between Opposition and Government. They have behaved with astonishing naivety and foolishness over the Bernie Ecclestone donation. Mr Blair has a soft spot for successful entrepreneurs, but he has been gullible. Out of office, no one questions two closely discussed discussions with businessmen, but in office, there are rules and procedures to be followed.

How can Mr Blair or his inner circle not have realised the dangers of the appearance of a conflict of interest when he overruled the advice of the Health Department and granted a special exemption from the ban on tobacco sponsorship to a businessman who had given Labour £1 million only months before the election? After all, Mr Ecclestone was hardly a committed Labour supporter, having previously given even larger sums to the Tories.

Professor Anthony King, a member of the Neill (formerly the Nolan) committee, has pointed out, such conflicts are covered in the Ministerial Code which Mr Blair issued in a revised form in July. It is odd that the Blair team has not learnt about the scandals that the Democrats have faced over fundraising from business. Labour's total of £27 million in the 18 months before the election has echoes of the Clinton White House money machine in 1995-96.

No wonder 10 Downing Street was in a tizzy yesterday - talking about very serious ramifications and saying everything was up for review - disclosure, limits on contributions and spending and state funding. The Blair camp is desperate to retake the political initiative and turn the tables on the Tories. But before everyone rushes to urge radical reforms, they should pause and reflect. What sort of party structure do we want? How much do we want to encourage the participation of individual members or to strengthen centralised control? State funding can ossify a

party system and discourage the recruitment of members. It is also no guarantee against corruption. Mr Blair rightly believes that taxpayers will be reluctant to subsidise the activities of political parties. There is already state support for the work of Opposition parties in Parliament and in kind with the provision of air time for television and radio broadcasts. There is a case for a limited expansion of resources for policy work, but none at all for unconditional state subsidies for campaigning and organisation.

An alternative approach is to impose national limits on expenditure, to match the tight restrictions on constituency spending. This might appeal to Labour, which is eager to reduce its dependence on the unions while also ensuring that the Tories do not have a funding advantage. However, the

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

American experience shows that limits on contributions are easily evaded.

The best answer is total disclosure administered by a new electoral commission which would supervise elections and parties generally. All donations of above £1,000 in any year to parties or any other bodies seeking to influence an election would have to be published within a month. Similarly, when anyone receives an honour or a public appointment, any political donation should be revealed.

Tighter disclosure requirements, as well as the proposed ban on foreign donations, could be included in the promised Home Office Bill this session, while the longer-term issues should be considered by the Neill committee. However, the belated promises of tough action and a new broom should be treated sceptically. Funding reforms tend to have unintended and perverse consequences.

PETER RIDDELL

Eco-friendly
may help
beat green

Opponents
hunting sta
poster driv

By Nicola...

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The Times
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Eco-friendly label may help shoppers beat green cheats

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

CONFUSION over goods that are claimed to be environmentally friendly may be ended by a government-approved "green" label. The proposal follows reports by consumer groups that many claims by manufacturers and stores are dishonest, misleading and bewildering.

Michael Meacher, the junior Environment Minister, said yesterday that people wanted guidance. A European Commission scheme, the Ecolabel, had been boycotted by some industries, and failed to win support among most national governments, who had set up their own domestic schemes.

"I see an imperative for Britain to have its own scheme," he told a conference in London on how Government and industry could promote sustainable development. "Consumers want reliable advice. Many of the

green claims made by business are seen by the public as just so much hot air."

The Government was also considering legal force for a proposed code of conduct covering environmental claims in advertising and packaging. Mr Meacher said that consumers could play a vital role in ensuring that demands for a higher standard of living were not at the expense of the environment. Energy consumption in homes produces about a quarter of Britain's carbon dioxide emissions, so significant savings could be made if people bought energy-saving products.

Rit Bjerregaard, the EU Commissioner for the environment, told the meeting that the Commission planned to revamp the Euro labelling project. Mr Meacher said it was unlikely that Germany, Austria and Scandinavia would abandon their own

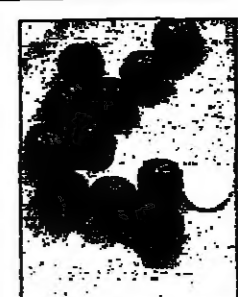
schemes, but he hoped that retailers and industry would abandon in-house symbols in favour of a national one.

Jayn Harding, deputy environmental manager for Sainsbury's, said that they would join if the Government and National Consumer Council could devise a scheme that was "unambiguous, clear, and not misleading". The company had already taken steps to scrap its own green logo of a hand cradling the world. Only logos such as those of the Soil Association and the Forest Stewardship Council are to be carried.

Last year a report by the National Consumer Council criticised claims on scores of products, including fridges and aerosols labelled as "CFC-free" (CFCs are banned) and washing powders labelled as "biodegradable" when all UK detergents already meet EU standards.



Mazzard trees were cultivated commercially in Landkey for their fruit, above right, until the Second World War



Hungry for second bite of mazzard

By Simon de Bruxelles

THE Millennium Fund is being asked to help to save the mazzard, an obscure relative of the cherry that few people have heard of and even fewer have tasted. Until the Second World War, orchards known as mazzard greens were one of the glories of Devon.

Today there are only a few hundred of the trees left and just a handful of people who know how to cultivate them. One is Dick Joy, the 70-year-old chairman of the parish council at Landkey, near Barnstaple, who has applied for funds to create a "millennium green" in the village with mazzard trees.

Opponents of hunting start poster drive

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

OPPOSITION to field sports yesterday launched a nationwide advertising campaign in support of a Bill to outlaw hunting, which the Commons is to vote on later this month.

Posters showing hounds tearing a fox apart and pursuing a deer across a river are to be displayed on 1,200 billboards.

The aim of the campaign is to drum up support for a Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, which would ban hunting with hounds. It is scheduled for a second reading in the Commons on November 24.

Although the Bill is expected to win the support of most MPs, the Government has refused to allocate it time to complete its Commons stages.

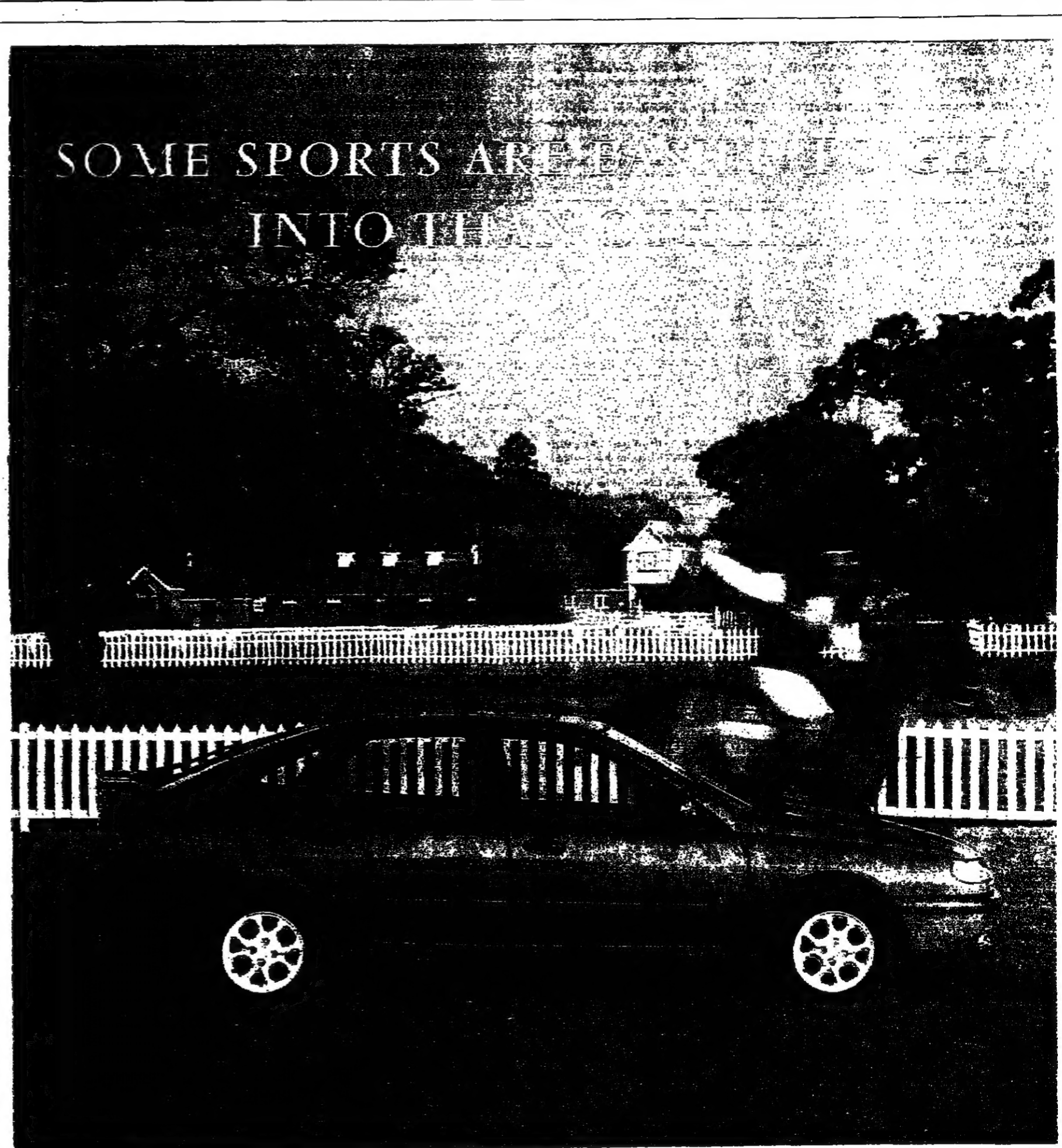
Mr Foster, who attended the unveiling of a poster in Central London yesterday, said: "It is time for the public and our public figures to speak out. I anticipate that my opponents will try every parliamentary tactic to try to delay this Bill, but if on November 24 it gets huge support from MPs of all parties, on a free vote, I believe that

will create a moral mandate to carry the legislation forward."

The advertising campaign, which is estimated to be costing at least £1 million, is being organised by the Campaign for the Protection of Hunted Animals, an alliance of the RSPCA, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the League Against Cruel Sports.

The launch was timed to coincide with the results of an opinion poll, commissioned from MORI, showing that 73 per cent of the population now believe hunting should be stopped, a rise of 8 per cent since July. Another MORI poll, published last week, indicated that even among rural dwellers there is a majority of nearly two to one in favour of banning hunting with dogs.

The Countryside Alliance, which represents country sports interests, said popular support for a hunting ban did not mean such a measure would be justified. "There is a duty in a democracy to respect the rights of a minority and people who take part in field sports are a substantial minority — the rural minority," a spokesman said.



Try walking into any polo club (however modest) and asking if you can have a bit of a knock around. No chance. Even golf clubs these days have a waiting list longer than most people's best tee shot.

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Free museums 'are perk for middle classes'

The people running national collections are split on the merits of charging visitors, reports Danya Alberge

MUSEUMS and galleries should charge for admission because otherwise the poor are subsidising middle-class visitors through taxes, the director of the Victoria and Albert Museum said yesterday.

Every survey, including one published yesterday, showed that most visitors were ABCs. Alan Borg said, "To provide free entry for them out of the public purse amounts to providing subsidy to the middle classes."

Mr Borg, speaking in a debate, "Who pays for museums?", drew an impassioned response from the heads of other leading institutions. Earlier he had heard the Arts Minister, Mark Fisher, liken running a museum to a department store. He asked the directors of the generally cash-strapped institutions whether they "measured up well to the best practice in the retail sector, for example, Marks & Spencer and Harvey Nichols".

Julian Spalding, Director of the Glasgow Museums, said that he grew up on a council estate in South London and that museums, entered for free, were the "wider horizons" that had inspired him. "Do we just want to be left with shopping centres?" he asked. The Government should maintain them not as a privilege but as a vision.

Tim Clifford, Director of the National Galleries of Scotland, lamented how the public was to be charged by the National Museum of Scotland to see great Celtic crosses which they could once see for nothing in the countryside.

The debate at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, was timed to coincide with a report on admission charges by Glasgow Caledonian University and the Central Office of Information, which found that among people who did not visit museums, only 4 per cent cited admission charges as a disincentive. The report found

lack of time was the main reason for not going. More than half the adults surveyed expressed interest in visiting, and 71 per cent supported voluntary donations.

Although Mr Fisher yesterday reiterated his support for the principle of free entry, David Barrie, Director of the National Art Collections Fund, was among many who

Leading article, page 23

sensed that the Government had performed a U-turn on earlier promises. Mr Barrie said: "Mark Fisher's speech strongly suggests that they have no intention of discouraging the introduction of admission charges; nor are they going to provide the additional money that alone would enable our major non-charging national museums to avoid introducing them."

Jennifer Edwards, of the National Campaign for the Arts, said that polls of political voting intentions showed that respondents did not always



Borg: charges needed as resources shrink

say what they meant. She cited Ipswich whose museum had introduced a £2 charge and saw visitors drop by 61 per cent.

Some suggested free days at institutions that normally charged and others spoke of charging only for temporary shows in the debate organised by the Museums and Galleries Commission. But most speakers said that fees only created barriers, deterring repeat visits.

The V&A introduced compulsory charges in October 1996, allowing free entrance for children, students and everyone after 4.30pm. Dr Borg said that as between 40 and 45 per cent of visitors entered free, he felt sure that no one was deterred from coming. Before turnstiles V&A attendance figures were not counted.

Dr Borg said that those who held to the principle of free entry must find a solution. "No one likes charging per se. If you believe in principle that charging is wrong, then you have a problem in a world in which the financial resources available to museums are shrinking. If you do not believe it is wrong in principle, then charging becomes part of the solution to making museums as good and thereby as accessible as possible."

Sir Terence Conran, attending as chairman of the Design Museum, said: "We get no grant from Government. We have to charge to keep the museum alive. Our life is made more difficult by the number of national museums who don't charge. Why should you have to charge if they don't? It is a question often asked by the public."

Lord Putnam, attending as chairman of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford, pointed to the way cinema had tripled its figures in the last few years, having looked beyond seat prices to improving the quality of the experience.



The British Museum, where a £5 admission charge was proposed last year as one solution to an impending budget crisis, but so far payment remains voluntary

However, Neil McGregor, Director of the National Gallery, said that institutions had a duty to remain free. Money could be raised through shops and restaurants. If people could enter freely, they approached the experience in a "different spirit, more relaxed and more confident". He noted that 45 per cent of their visitors were from overseas.

Lord Strabolis, the collector who has threatened to rethink his bequest to the nation if charges are intro-

duced, said that tourists boosted the economy, spending in hotels, restaurants and transport. Charges were a short-sighted means that would bring an unhappy end.

Karen Hull, Director of Reading Museum Service, said that museum collections were the property of the people. "Museum charges would mean they pay twice."

Lord Strabolis drew support from many when he called for changes to VAT and tax relief for donors of works

of art towards the American system. It had helped to build fine collections there.

On VAT, Timothy Wilson, Director of the Ashmolean Museum, said that the "regime is an ass". In buying a Canova bust, matching the price paid by the Getty Museum in California, the museum had to pay £54,000 in VAT. "That was not only extra money that had to be found, but one interested benefactor was so incensed that he withdrew his donation."

Painted Marines battled carry-on soldiers

BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

IT WAS like a scene from a Carry-on remake of Braveheart. Royal Marines dressed as Highland warriors and with faces painted in Braveheart style fought with soldiers in women's clothes after the two groups chose the same bar for their pre-Christmas party, a court was told yesterday.

A police officer said his van was surrounded by Marines brandishing imitation broadswords after one of their colleagues had been arrested for fighting.

Judge Ian McKintosh told FC Andrew White at Barnstaple Crown Court: "I don't think that scene appears in the film."

Marine Nicol Hemmings, 26, from Chivenor, and Royal Engineer Darren Fairhurst, 28, from Fremington, Devon, both deny causing an affray on December 13 last year. They were among a group of 30 dressed in fancy dress outside the pub, according to police.

Alan Large, for the prosecution, said: "Marine Hemmings was wearing a kilt and had his face painted blue in the style of the film Braveheart, and several of those from the Army were wearing ladies' clothing."

Trouble began when the Marines ran into members of the Army's Independent Commando Group at a bar called Mr Berties in Barnstaple. After leaving the pub, the jury was told, fighting broke out as a Marine in a kilt and with a St Andrew's cross on his face attacked a rival.

The case continues.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Summerhayes: fall

Parents call for answers over death of sailor

The parents of Keith Summerhayes, 27, Chief Petty Officer on the frigate HMS London, were last night demanding an explanation after his body was found in the doorway of a block of flats in El Ferrol, northwest Spain, where the frigate was on a routine visit. His mother Carol, of Birmingham, said: "We have been told he fell down some stairs." Her son had become engaged last week.

Patients suffer

Cancer patients are suffering because of a critical shortage of skilled nurses, doctors and therapists, the King's Fund, the Cancer Research Campaign and Macmillan Cancer Relief say in a report. Urgent action is needed to recruit and train more specialists.

Knife trial halted

The trial of a teenager accused of knifing a woman graduate in the head on a train was halted after his barrister fell ill, and the Old Bailey jury was discharged. Robert Buckland, 17, of no fixed address, denies attempting to murder Alison Kennedy, 28.

Bus queue crash

A woman suffered head injuries and broken legs when a car driven by an elderly woman ploughed through a bus queue and crashed into a house at Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. Five others in the queue were treated for cuts. The driver suffered minor injuries.

Help for addicts

All prisoners wanting to conquer addictions to hard drugs should have a place in a special testing unit over the next few years, the Government said. A rolling programme will gradually increase the 4,000 existing places until demand is met.

CJD appeal

The Court of Appeal has reserved judgment in the case of the parents of a group of children who developed the human form of "mad cow" disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. They are challenging their exclusion from government compensation.

Reels net £26,000

A collection of fishing reels made by Hardy Brothers of Alnwick, Northumberland, sold for £26,000 at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, West Sussex, yesterday. They included a 1930s tournament reel which fetched £8,625, four times its estimated price.

Producer banned

Richard Pearson, 35, producer of BBC2's Top Gear motoring programme, has been banned from driving for three weeks and fined £200 with £30 costs by magistrates at King's Lynn, Norfolk, after admitting driving at 107mph in a 70mph limit on the A47.

NHS calls for study of alternative therapies

BY MARK HENDERSON

COMPLEMENTARY medicine needs to be more tightly regulated and to introduce recognised qualifications if it is to become an integrated part of healthcare, the NHS Confederation said yesterday.

A report for the confederation, which represents health authorities and NHS trusts, found that the bewildering range of professional organisations and training courses was making it difficult for GPs and trusts to make informed choices about complementary medicine.

Under current rules, a nurse who has taken a weekend course in acupuncture can work on the same basis as a practitioner with years of experience, often without adequate insurance cover. Only osteopathy and chiropractic are regulated by a single protected body.

The report follows the Prince of Wales's call last month for alternative therapies to become more widely available on the NHS. The confederation wants a govern-

ment review of complementary medicine's effectiveness, and training and regulation procedures. "We need a national initiative, funded by the Government, to discover how complementary treatments can best be used by the NHS."

Yvonne Mounier, project officer for the NHS Confederation, said:

GPs and trusts who used alternative medicine had no way of knowing what they were getting for their money, she said. "There is little evidence as to medical effectiveness." There are 143 professional organisations for complementary medicines, representing 14 disciplines.

The report, which surveyed 651 health professionals and alternative practitioners in Leicestershire, found that complementary medicine was used at a low but significant level within the NHS.

More than a third of midwives said they used complementary techniques, mostly aromatherapy, and 28 per cent of GPs referred patients to

alternative practitioners. The lowest use was among dentists, just 6 per cent of whom had used complementary medicine. Aromatherapy, acupuncture and massage were the most commonly used techniques.

The NHS spends less than £1 million a year on alternative therapies, whereas the market is worth more than £100 million a year. The report found only 15 per cent of complementary practitioners work within the NHS.

David Tredinnick, MP, chairman of the Parliamentary Group for Complementary Medicine, said that such government action was essential to improve public access to alternative therapy. "We need to establish which treatments and practitioners we can have faith in," he said. "They can save the NHS a lot of money."

The Department of Health said it had started to explore the recommendations of the Integrated Healthcare report, and would consider the NHS Confederation's findings.

Adverts are bare cheek to men

Carol Midgley on a watchdog's fears about 'demeaning' images urging women to put the boot in

MEN have become the new victims of sexism in advertising. Watchdogs called for caution yesterday after receiving a series of complaints about images of males being humiliated and degraded by women.

The Advertising Standards Authority said that a large section of the public regarded the trend as tasteless and objectionable. It identified a poster by Lee, the jeans manufacturer, which shows a woman in denim and stiletto heels with her foot resting on the buttocks of a prostrate, naked man. The headline reads: "Put the boot in."

Seventy-seven people had written to complain, saying the advert was offensive and condoned violence. In its defence, Lee said the posters showed a woman in control

and "reflecting the prevailing Girl Power mood". There were also complaints about a Nissan car advert which portrays a man holding his crotch in pain, with the headline: "The Micra. Ask before you borrow it." Nissan said that the advert was humorous, and portrayed the anger felt by women when their cars were borrowed without permission.

Another campaign which attracted criticism was for Wallis clothing stores. Under the slogan "Dressed to Kill", it shows women

wearing clothes which distract male motorists, causing them to have fatal accidents.

The ASA's monthly bulletin said the complaints had not been upheld, but urged advertisers to use caution. Taking up the Spice Girls' slogan of Girl Power, it pointed out: "For the moment at least, Girl Power is alive and well. Inevitably, some advertisers seem to have tried to capture the essence of this phenomenon by either portraying men being demeaned by women, or portraying women play-

ing on their desirability to, and power over, men.

"Although undoubtedly complainants felt these campaigns were tasteless and objectionable, the authority did not feel that the advertisements were likely to cause serious or widespread offence. However, the objections serve as a reminder that suggestions of violence in advertisements tend not to find favour with the public, whatever the victims' gender and however humorous the intention."

The ASA ordered cosmetic surgery clinics not to play down the risks of operations in their adverts, and said that they should not make a claim of being a "leading" establishment without being able to support it.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Bevin boys get call-up papers after 50 years

By ALAN HAMILTON AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

BELEATED recognition may soon be granted to a forgotten but vital wartime army that kept Britain supplied with fuel in the darkest days of the 1940s.

When the country was blockaded by U-boats and a huge proportion of the coal industry's manpower had been called up for active service, Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service, decreed in 1940 that one in ten conscripts between the ages of 18 and 25 should go down the mines.

In the half century since the end of the war, the "Bevin boys" have felt neglected. Their principal complaint is that they have never been allowed to join their ex-Servicemen's parade at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

But in a letter this week to the Bevin Boys' Association, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has indicated that they may be able to take their place in future parades alongside comrades who saw active service. Mr Straw said that although it was too late for them to be included in last Sunday's ceremony, "I very much hope we will be able to



Bevin: sent conscripts into undermanned pits

sort things out to everyone's satisfaction in time for next year's ceremony."

Phil Wood, chairman of the association, said at a reunion at the Imperial War Museum yesterday: "This is great news, and the end of a long campaign to achieve recognition more than half a century after the end of the war. In the past the Royal British Legion has steadfastly refused to acknowledge our existence."

The Bevin boys were created under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act of 1940, when the mining industry began to face a critical shortage of

labour. In 1943 there were 48,000 conscripts in the pits. Today their association has some 1,250 members.

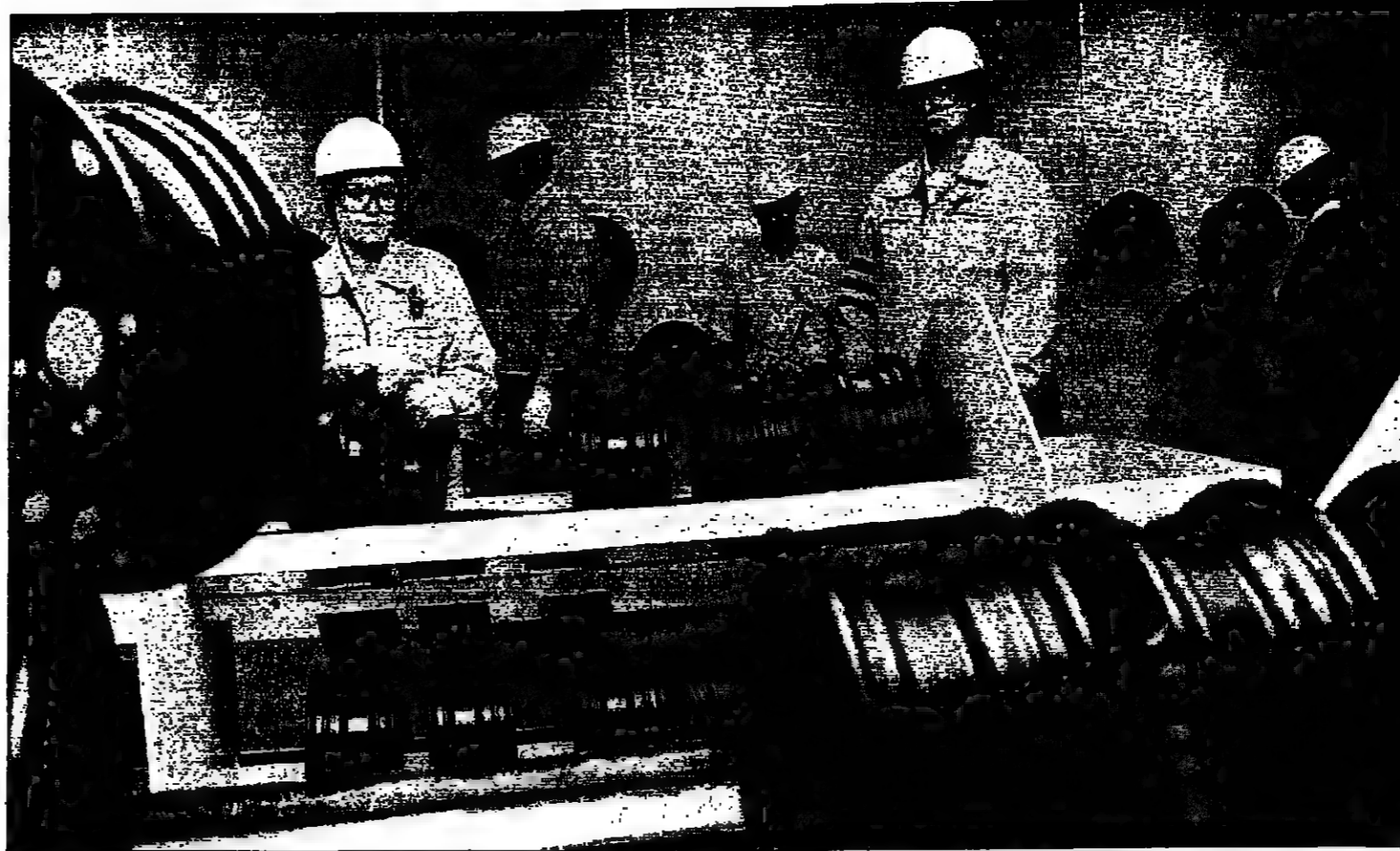
Mr Wood, 70, a retired sales manager from Dunston, Staffordshire, spent four years in Brierley pit, south Yorkshire, and Littleton pit at Cannock.

"Most of us wanted to join the forces, but we had no option. In retrospect, however, it was a great experience," he said. Among famous old Bevin boys are Sir Jimmy Savile and the playwright Peter Shaffer. Sir Jimmy, who spent seven years down three pits, said he would welcome any recognition on behalf of colleagues who felt their contribution had not been recognised.

"While we were not a complaining lot, we did have very different experiences to others who were conscripted, and many feel they have been ignored," he said. "I actually enjoyed it a great deal and met some marvellous people. But I am glad that finally we may have our moment."

Other Bevin boys include Paul Hamlyn, the multimillionaire publisher and Labour Party benefactor, and Sidney Parkinson, father of the Conservative Party chairman, Lord Parkinson.

For the conscripts sent down the mines instead of into active



Employees at the Toyota plant in Derbyshire observing the silence. There was the first Japanese factory in the UK to halt its production line

Millions observe respectful silence

By TIM JONES AND KEVIN EASON

MILLIONS of people observed the two minutes silence yesterday at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Even the slides were quiet: the departure of Concorde from Heathrow to New York was delayed by 45 minutes to ensure the roar of its engines would not mar the moment. At airports all activity stopped, and at train stations Railtrack made announcements inviting passengers to remember the war dead. Many buses pulled over and cut their engines for two minutes.

For the first time, all major stores joined more than 200 companies and organisations in backing the campaign for Armistice Day to be honoured throughout the land.

In Edinburgh the One O'Clock Gun was fired at 11am. In London the neon lights in Piccadilly Circus were switched off. At the Stock Exchange the trading floor was hushed.

As the nation's political leaders, led by Tony Blair, observed the moment, sentries at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and St James's Palace stood to attention and sloped arms. At Horse Guards Parade, Life Guards "carried swords".

While official pomp and ceremony were routinely observed, with the Duke of York joining submarine veterans in

MEDALS GIVEN TO MUSEUM

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Two of the most famous Victoria Crosses in private ownership were handed over to The Green Howards regiment last night at an Armistice Day ceremony at the Tower of London.

The VC awarded to Private Henry Tandey, the most decorated private soldier of the First World War, and Company Sergeant Major Stanley Hollis, the only serviceman to win the medal on D-Day, will now reside in The Green Howards museum in Richmond, North Yorkshire. Both soldiers served with the regi-

ment. The two medal sets were bought at auction by Sir Ernest Harrison, the chairman of Racial Electronics and a trustee of The Green Howards Normanby Memorial Trust. The Tandey VC sold for £27,000 in 1980 and the Hollis VC for £32,000 in 1982.

Sir Ernest had intended to bequeath the VCs to The Green Howards in his will. However, after a visit to the regimental museum, he decided they should be displayed alongside the 13 other Victoria Crosses exhibited there.

Blyth, Northumberland: it was an ordinary people who claimed the day. Shoppers, sales assistants, office workers and unemployed people stood still to record their gratitude to the war dead.

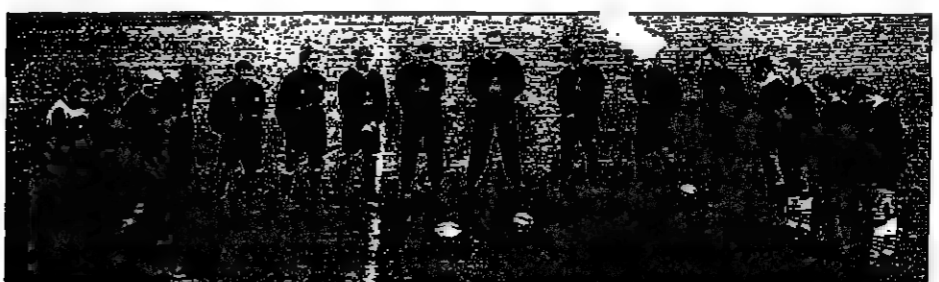
BBC television and radio programmes and ITN observed the silence and BBC1 superimposed pictures of falling poppy petals over scenes of headstones, trenches and war memorials.

In France, a tribute carved in Welsh slate was unveiled in memory of 97 soldiers of the Royal Welch Fusiliers who were killed near Dunkirk. At Alrewas, Staffordshire, members of the Burma Star Assoc-

iation planted trees dedicated to those involved in the Far East campaigns.

Toyota became the first Japanese factory to honour the remembrance tribute, allowing its assembly lines at Burnaston, Derbyshire, to be stopped. More than 50 Japanese workers joined the act of remembrance. Staff at Honda also stopped work at 11am.

More than 100 local authorities fired maroons to mark the start and end of the silence. A defective maroon launched from Ealing town hall, West London, exploded on impact, setting fire to five parked cars and damaging four others.



The Great Britain rugby league squad standing in tribute to the war dead in Leeds

Woman in coma allowed to die

By FRANCES GUNN

A WOMAN who lost consciousness more than three and a half years ago, after a "final" drink and drugs party left her into a persistent vegetative state, is to be allowed to die.

The High Court yesterday gave doctors permission to withdraw life-sustaining treatment and medical support from the 43-year-old woman, referred to as Miss L.

"This unfortunate lady left the living world in its true sense on March 4, 1994," Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, said. "She has never since been aware of anything which has gone on about her."

The judge had heard from Claire Johnston, for the Official Solicitor, that Miss L, a drug addict, was "an unusual, wild lady, but not a lost cause". "She had almost saved herself from the ruin that her family and friends had thought would be her end," Miss Johnston said. But at one final party her intake of heroin and alcohol caused a heart attack leading to brain damage.

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Lawnmower firm finds American grass is greener

The maker of the world's first mower and supplier to Buckingham Palace is recommending a £137m takeover. Nigel Hawkes reports

A NAME as redolent of the English summer as newly cut grass has fallen prey to an American takeover.

Ransomes of Ipswich, which manufactured the first lawnmower in 1832, has recommended shareholders to accept a bid worth £137 million from Textron, an American industrial group behind a range of products from Bell helicopters to golf carts.

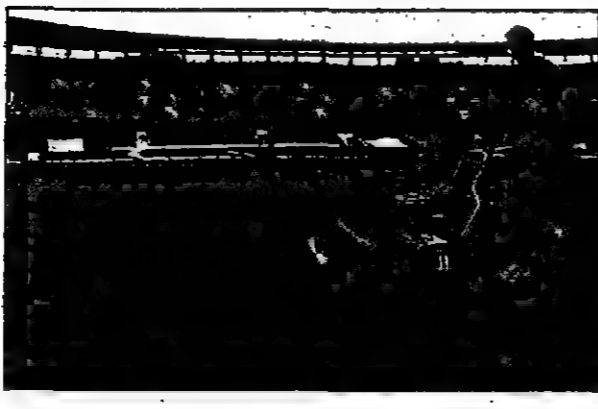
Often described as the Rolls-Royce of lawnmowers, the dark green Ransomes with its gently punning engine and exposed flywheel can be seen at work in the better-heeled shires at weekends. Machines have been known to survive for decades, easily outlasting their owners. Ransomes machines also tend the lawns of Buckingham Palace, the courts at Wimbledon, Twickenham rugby ground and the Old Course at St Andrews.

In recent years the company has seen turbulent times, an ill-judged dash for growth in the late 1980s leaving it vulnerable. A recovery package seemed to have restored its fortunes but a dip in profits set the scene for a takeover which has been welcomed by the board.

Brian Radam, Curator of the British Lawnmower Museum in Southport, was less pleased. "We've got the best grass, and the best lawnmowers, but not a single British company left making



Ransomes, fitted as the Rolls-Royce of mowers, date from 1832. The marque is still used at Wimbledon



A Ransomes motor-mower at St Andrews in 1911. The company is supporting Textron's £137 million bid

founder, designed an iron plough in 1783 and a self-sharpening plough in 1803. In 1832 the company made its first lawnmower, to a design by Edwin Budding. So fearful was Budding of being considered a madman that he tested his machine at night. In his patent, he stated: "Country gentlemen may find in using my machine an amusing, useful and healthy exercise."

The lawnmower business made a sluggish start, with Ransomes selling only between 70 and 80 machines a year for the next 20 years. At the time they were selling 80 different ploughs, including one designed to be pulled by an elephant. The turning point came in 1867 with the introduction of the Automaton lawnmower, which sold well.

In 1902 the company was the first to sell a petrol-driven mower, a 42-inch cylinder machine with a seat over the heavy roller at the rear. After a famous "mow-off" at Eaton Hall, Cheshire, the seat of the Duke of Westminster, at which the Ransome machine bettered a steam-powered mower made by Leyland, Edward VII ordered a demonstration at Buckingham Palace.

The classic British mower had its heyday in the 1920s. Some were almost ludicrously well-built. The true Rolls-Royce of mowers, says Mr Radam, was a machine built

by Jerome and Pearson of Leicester. If you bought one of those you would never need another, he said. The only drawback was that it cost £200, then the price of a semi-detached house. But

Ransomes, he conceded, "still produce one of the best lawnmowers you can get".

A spokesman for the company said: "We often get people ringing and saying 'my uncle's just died and I've

found an old mower of yours in his shed'. They think it's going to be worth a fortune, but so many have survived that that simply isn't true."

Peter Wilson, Ransomes' chief executive, said: "We need to expand and it would be difficult for us to do it on our own. We think this offer gives good value to our shareholders and is encouraging for the future growth of the company."

Historic boat that gave pilots a sinking feeling

By SIMON DE BRUILLIS

THERE were no happy landings for pilots on a prototype First World War aircraft carrier. They could take off, but there was no room to come down except by ditching at sea and awaiting rescue.

Now the only surviving example of the carrier has itself been rescued from obscurity in a Thames boatyard, and will be restored at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton, Somerset.

The primitive floating runways were little more than a barge towed behind a destroyer. They were initially designed to carry sea-planes to within striking distance of the German fleet. In the closing stages of the war, they were converted to allow a Sopwith Camel to take off from the wooden deck, but there was no facility for landing after a mission.

A fleet of 45 of the craft, called lighters, had been built

in 1917. The hulls were designed so that, at high speed, the bow wave broke sideways, keeping aircraft wings dry. Graham Mottram, the museum's director, said: "Early in 1918, experiments with aircraft at sea were moving very fast and the idea arose of building a wooden deck to fit a Sopwith Camel fighter. The first attempt was not a success. Commander Charles Samson took off, but nobody had realised that the deck pointed sharply uphill because of the towing angle. He stalled and crashed into the sea, and the lighter ran him over." Commander Samson was not badly hurt.

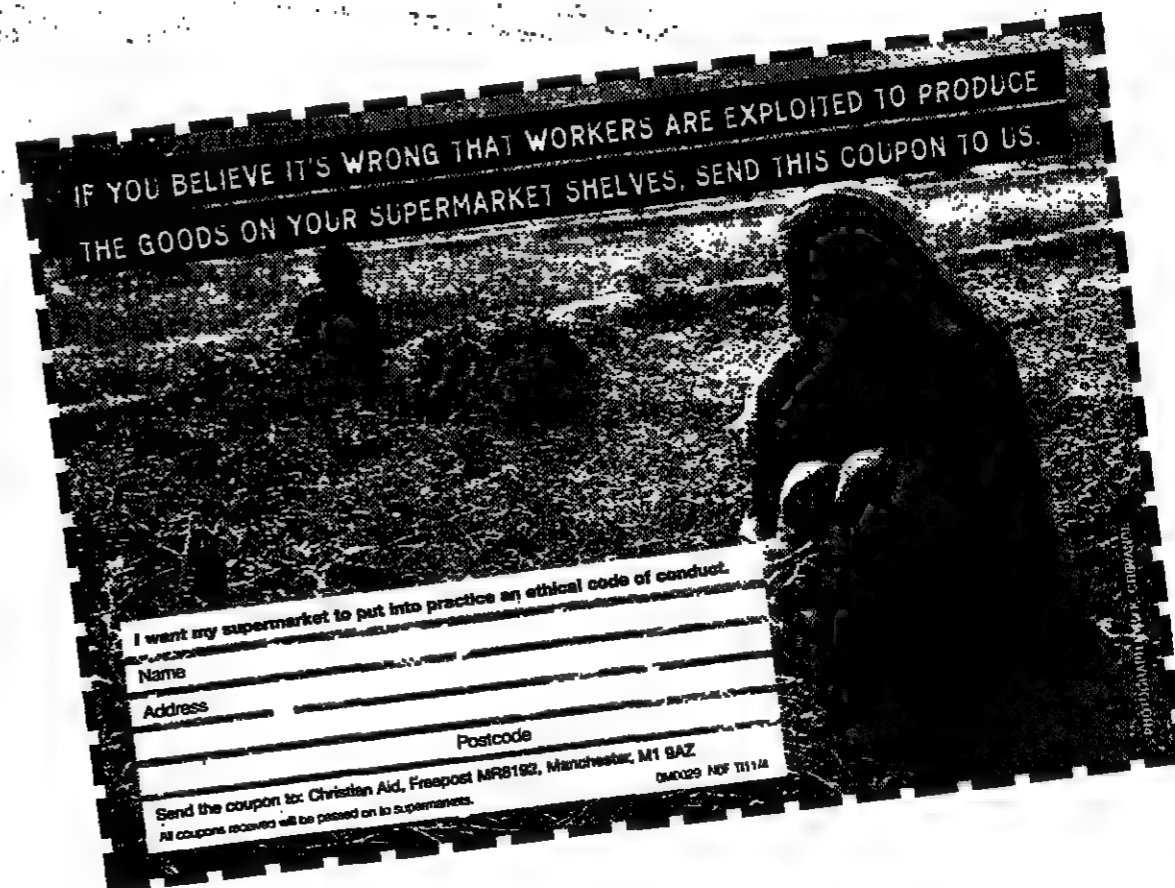
"They rebuilt the ramp and within a few days in August 1918, Lieutenant Stuart Cully successfully took off and shot down a Zeppelin. Once a pilot finished a mission, he had to ditch in the sea close to a destroyer, then inflate big

floatation bags to stop sinking. The ship's crew would then fish him out of the sea. It worked after a fashion, but the aircraft had to be carefully dried and serviced."

The lighter's role as a fighting platform was short-lived. By the summer of 1918, pilots had proved that they could take off from a flat-decked ship. They could also land again. By the end of the war, Britain had two recognisable aircraft carriers, HMS Furious and HMS Argos, "which was two more than any other country".

The surviving example has spent 65 years ferrying cargo to a boatyard at Sunbury, Surrey. The yard bought it from the Navy in the 1930s. Mr Mottram said: "The barge is in remarkably good condition considering. We hope to restore the platform and display our own replica Sopwith Camel on the lighter."

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MEDALS GIVEN TO MUSEUM

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Two of the most famous Victoria Crosses in private ownership were handed over to the British Museum last night at an awards ceremony at the Tower of London.

The VC awarded to Private Henry Taylor, who decorated himself at the Battle of the Marston and Compton, Somerset, in 1918, was presented to the museum by the Queen. The VC awarded to Private John Gribble, who decorated himself at the Battle of the Somme, was presented to the museum by the Queen. The VC awarded to Private John Gribble, who decorated himself at the Battle of the Somme, was presented to the museum by the Queen.

At the ceremony, the Queen presented the VC to the museum. The VC awarded to Private Henry Taylor, who decorated himself at the Battle of the Marston and Compton, Somerset, in 1918, was presented to the museum by the Queen.

The VC awarded to Private John Gribble, who decorated himself at the Battle of the Somme, was presented to the museum by the Queen. The VC awarded to Private John Gribble, who decorated himself at the Battle of the Somme, was presented to the museum by the Queen.

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Saddam accused of anti-Stealth deal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration last night launched an investigation into reports that Iraq planned to buy five electronic warfare radar systems from Eastern Europe that would give President Saddam Hussein the capability of detecting and shooting down American Stealth bombers.

Revelations of the deal came as Baghdad continued to defy United Nations resolutions by barring weapons inspection teams from facilities outside the capital and President Clinton, speaking at Arlington cemetery on Veterans Day, reiterated his demand that the international community impose its will on Saddam.

"They [the inspectors] are doing what they must do and they must get back to work. And the international community must demand that," Mr Clinton said.

Increasing American pressure on Iraq to comply with UN resolutions, William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary, said he and Gen-

al Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had decided to cancel visits to Asia to be on hand in case of "any kind of contingency".

Asked if UN approval would be needed to launch a military strike against Saddam, Mr Cohen said: "I think there is inherent authority under existing UN authority to carry out such strikes, should it be necessary." Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, telephoned her counterparts among members of the Security Council, including Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and

was said to have been assured of Moscow's support for a "graduated" approach to Saddam.

Since his air defence grid was destroyed by F117 Stealth jets in the early hours of the Gulf War, the Iraqi leader has been searching for a system to counter the radar-evading aircraft. In the last month, according to the Washington Times, a group of Bulgarian arms dealers has been working secretly to arrange the sale of five Tamara warfare radar systems to Baghdad for \$375 million (£223 million). An American official said last

night that the report was being taken seriously and an investigation was under way.

CIA officials were said to have identified General Peter Barbalov, a retired Bulgarian officer and ambassador to Iraq in the early 1990s, as the prime mover behind the deal, which has been under negotiation since July.

General Barbalov, president of Inochern-SI Ltd, an arms trading company registered with the Czech Government, has maintained strong links with many of Iraq's military leaders, including General Amar Rashid, head of the Iraqi military-industrial complex.

Although all weapons sales to Saddam's regime are banned under a UN embargo imposed at the end of the Gulf War, the radar deal was expected to circumvent sanctions by identifying the end user as a country other than Iraq.

Simon Jenkins, page 22

Toxin work suspected

New York: UN inspectors have uncovered evidence that Iraq may be continuing work on the lethal toxin Ricin, once used to kill a Bulgarian dissident on Waterloo Bridge (James Bone writes). According to UN sources, scientific papers concerning

Ricin were discovered by inspectors during a raid in April on the university office of a scientist with links to Iraq's biological weapons centre at Al-Hakam. Baghdad claimed the papers related to its experimentation with Ricin before the Gulf War.

Americans fail to win UN consensus on military action

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and the United States yesterday abandoned their effort to get a clear threat of military action against Iraq from the United Nations Security Council.

Facing opposition from Russia, France and China, they dropped the issuing of a warning of "serious consequences" from a draft resolution they plan to table for a vote as early as today. The resolution will still impose a travel ban on senior Iraqi officials and condemn Baghdad's decision to bar Americans from working as UN weapons inspectors.

British diplomats emphasised that their objective was to obtain unanimous denunciation of Iraq by the Security Council, increasingly divided on how to ensure Iraqi co-operation with the UN Special Commission charged with eliminating its weapons of mass destruction.

Britain had originally wanted the resolution to declare Iraq in "material breach" of its obligations under the Gulf War ceasefire—a legal formula giving clear authority for a resumption of military action.

Russia, France and China objected to the phrase, because of its implicit threat of the use of force, and at a meeting of the five veto-bearing members

of the 15-nation Security Council the draft was watered down even further with the deletion of the phrase "serious consequences".

The Security Council had already issued a presidential statement last week giving a warning of "serious consequences", and the fact that the wording could not be repeated explicitly in a formal Security Council resolution signalled members' strong opposition to military action. Even the agreement of permanent members on a travel ban came only after the Security Council had issued two previous unheeded warnings.

Russia spoke out adamantly against a military strike on Iraq yesterday after a Beijing summit meeting between President Yeltsin and President Jiang Zemin of China. A Russian spokesman said: "We want to express our decisive opposition to using the UN Security Council as a cover for military strikes against Baghdad." He added: "That is Russia's position. As far as I know, China shares it."

Egypt, another Security Council member, also voiced opposition. President Mubarak told al-Ahram newspaper that "the principle of the use of force is not appropriate".



Jet fighters on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, on high alert in the Gulf

Baghdad shrugs off sanctions threats

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ yesterday brushed aside threats of increased sanctions or American military strikes and threatened to block United Nations attempts to monitor its arms programmes unless its own demands were met.

An influential newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's elder son, Uday, said Iraq wanted written guarantees that inspection teams would be neutral and a timetable for lifting sanctions.

"If not, it will be our right to close the file on co-operation... and abandon any illusion of a solution through the UN because it is no more than an agency of the US State Department," Babel said.

Such action would step up the confrontation with the UN, which is concerned that Baghdad is exploiting the stand-off to hide equipment related to weapons of mass destruction. There have been no weapons inspections for nine days because of Iraq's ban on Americans taking part.



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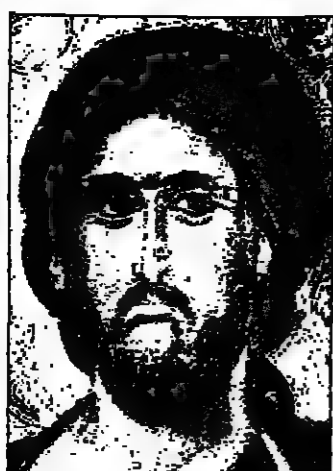
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Biblical scholar paints new picture of an upwardly mobile Jesus



Jesus "middle-class"

DESPITE Jesus Christ's exhortations to the rich to give up their worldly goods if they hoped to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, he was born into "a relatively well off" middle-class family and lived a comfortable lifestyle, associating with the rich as well as the poor, according to a leading Jesuit biblical scholar.

Father Ugo Vanni, lecturer in New Testament studies at the Gregorian University — which is part of the Vatican structure — said he had concluded after 20 years of research that although Jesus undoubtedly adhered to the "principles of simplicity" he urged on others, his standard of living was "somewhere between the super-austerity of John the Bap-

A Jesuit lecturer says that Christ's life was not so humble, Richard Owen writes

tist and the well-to-do life of the rich."

Although Jesus's birth in a stable at Bethlehem suggested humble origins, the Holy Family were not poor. He agreed with the Roman Catholic historian, Giovanni Magnani, who recently caused a stir within the Vatican by suggesting that Jesus was "not a simple carpenter" but "more like a successful builder, a polyglot, and altogether a solid and cultured citizen of Galilee."

"We are not talking here about a backward rural milieu," Father

Vanni told *Il Messaggero*. "Jesus came from a highly cultured background. He was a professional artisan like his earthly father, Joseph." Father Vanni said the Biblical word *tékton*, commonly translated as "carpenter", in fact implied a high level of professional training, craftsmanship and standing in the community — "something more like a surveyor". He said Joseph and Jesus would certainly not have confined their activities to Nazareth. "It was probably a well-known family business in the area."

In St Mark's Gospel, Jesus meets "a man of great wealth", who says he has kept all the Commandments, and asks what else he must do to win eternal life. Jesus tells him to "Go, sell everything you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven" (Mark x, 21). He then makes his celebrated observation to the disciples that "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God" (Mark x, 25).

But Father Vanni said although Jesus made a point of associating with the poor, the despised and the outcast, he was not averse to accepting dinner invitations from "the rich and the well off".

He said the household of Martha, Mary and Lazarus in Bethany — where Mary anoints Jesus's feet with costly oil and perfume, to the irritation of Judas Iscariot — was clearly middle-class.

The disciples recruited by Galilee, such as St Peter, were not simple fishermen but men who ran a serious fishing business, Father Vanni said. Jesus "did not appropriate the riches of all his followers".

He adhered to ascetic spiritual values, "but the Gospel message does not emphasise poverty in the radical manner of John the Baptist". He said St Luke's reference to the fact that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men" (Luke ii,

52) showed he was "not a hermit, but an open and amiable young man".

Father Vanni said Jesus probably attended performances in Greek at the theatre of Seferis, a town of about 30,000 people, which was about four miles from Nazareth, and which was recently excavated. He said Jesus sometimes used theatrical images, including his vivid description in St Matthew's Gospel of the "hypocrites" who give to the needy "with a flourish of trumpets" and pray "where everyone can see them" (Matthew vi, 2 and 5), whereas Christians should "go into a room by themselves, shut the door and pray to their Father who is unseen" (Matthew vi, 6).

£6bn tax deficit threatens Bonn target for EMU

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY was yesterday struggling to keep on target for European economic and monetary union after a £6 billion shortfall in tax revenues.

Although the Government quickly drew up a set of proposals to plug the gap, a cloud now hangs over Bonn's ability to meet precisely the Maastricht goal of keeping the public deficit down to 3 per cent of gross domestic product.

Germans will have to reckon with yet more belt-tightening. Public spending has been capped to prevent the traditional year-end sprint to dispose of the rest of the annual budget in December. One newspaper complained: "We have already been squeezed to the limit, police patrols are having their petrol rationed... there is nothing left to cut."

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, hopes that by re-scheduling east German debts and by an interest-rate swap between government and banks, he can make up the central government budget without resorting to new borrowing. Some of the revenues from the privatisation of Telekom will also be used to close the gap.

He said that Germany would meet the euro targets for 1997 and 1998. But economists said Germany would have problems keeping the deficit down to 3 per cent of GDP and could well end up with 3.1 per cent. This would probably not be fatal for monetary union but would be a serious embarrassment for Bonn, weakening its ability to exclude from EMU countries with lax fiscal discipline.

Speaking on BBC television's *Business Breakfast*, Adair Turner — director-general of the Chamber of British Industry — said of the Germans, "it is still very important that they, like everyone else, meet the criteria, so if they are significantly outside it we would certainly see that as an argument for delaying the whole project, not just for us but for the others".

Stronger than expected growth and some statistical adjustments — such as the exclusion of hospital debt — may yet ensure that Germany scrapes under the euro fence. The tax shortfall, which is the result of both central and local government budgeting, does suggest, however, that there is something fundamentally

amiss with Germany's public finances. Tax revenues, according to the latest calculations, will drop even further next year.

Seen over a medium-term perspective, it is plain that there has been quite serious budgetary mismanagement. Two years ago the Government calculated that total tax revenues for 1997 would be around £331 billion. Yesterday's estimate for this year was close to £274 billion.

The shortfall is partly caused by stubbornly high unemployment, since the 4.4 million jobless pay no taxes. But the overall catchment area of taxpayers has been shrinking, companies have been given tax concessions (to improve Germany's international competitiveness) and top-rate taxpayers are making full use of the many legal loopholes to reduce their payments. Some of these loopholes cannot easily be closed without creating further unemployment.

The tax crisis highlights the failure of the Government and Opposition to reach a comprehensive tax reform that would unlock revenue but keep Germany competitive.



Hillary Clinton at a welcoming ceremony in Alma Ata after arriving in Kazakhstan yesterday for a tour of the former Soviet Union. The visit aims to promote human rights, religious tolerance and economic development

Final journey for remains of Tsar's family

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A SPECIAL train will set out from Moscow in the next few days and travel 1,000 miles east over the Ural mountains to Yekaterinburg to collect the remains of Tsar Nicholas II and his family from the city where they were killed by the Bolsheviks in July 1918.

A spokesman for the General Prosecu-

tor said yesterday that a carriage, accompanied by a detachment of riot police, had been due to leave Moscow last night, but had been held up for technical reasons. He said the operation to move the remains would begin within a week.

President Yeltsin ordered the remains — consisting of skulls, teeth and bones, all severely damaged by acid and fire — to be brought to Moscow last week, overruling objections from Eduard Rossel, the Gov-

ernor of Sverdlovsk province, who has been campaigning for their final burial in the city where they died. When in Moscow they will be given a final examination by experts, including specialists from Britain and the United States, to remove any remaining doubts about their authenticity. The remains will then be returned to Yekaterinburg pending a final decision by a commission on their permanent resting place.

European job ruling favours women

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

STATES are entitled to give preference to the recruitment and promotion of women over men in their public services, the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

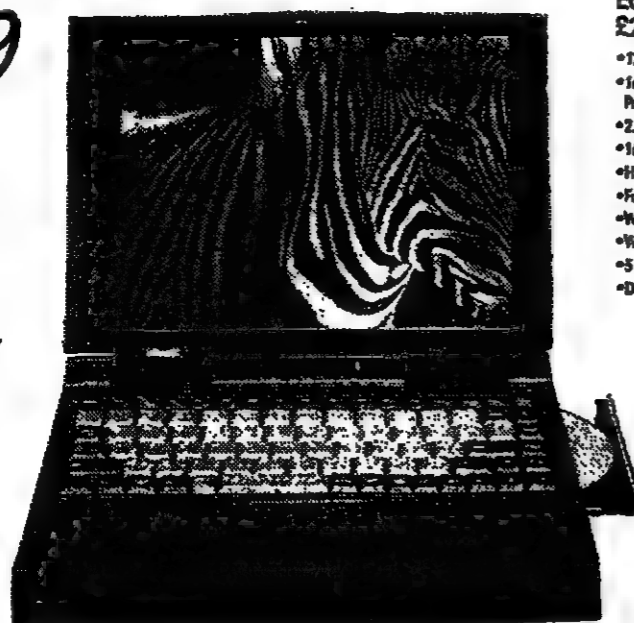
In a decision that delighted the Brussels Commission and women's rights groups, the court backed away from an earlier ruling that appeared to outlaw positive discrimination in the name of equal opportunities. National laws giving priority to women in public-sector promotions do not conflict with EU law provided male candidates are not excluded from consideration, the judges ruled. Filing quotas on female recruitment was, however, unlawful.

The finding resulted from the case of a teacher in North Rhine-Westphalia who complained that a woman had been appointed to a post for which he was equally qualified on the grounds that there were more men than women in similar posts.

Padraig Flynn, EU Commissioner for Social Affairs, welcomed the fact that the judges had recognised the need to counter deep-rooted prejudices and stereotypes. "The mere fact that male and female candidates are equally qualified does not mean that they have the same chances," the judge said.

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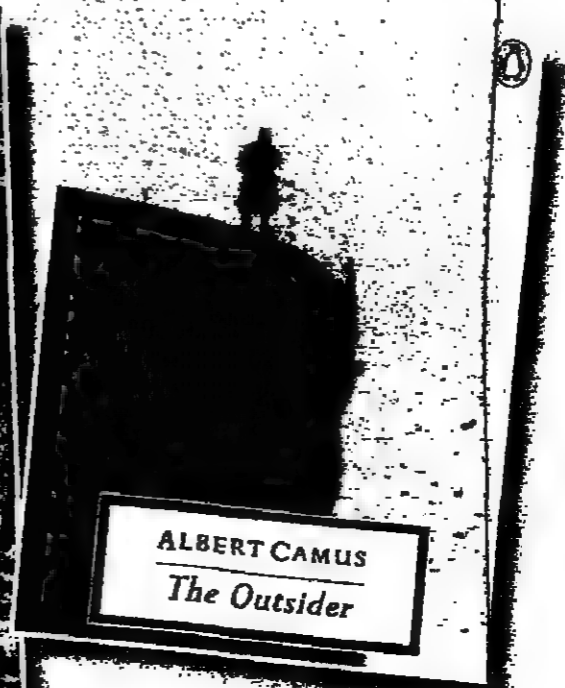
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CHANGING TIMES

Crocodiles and hunger plague flooded Somalia

FROM DAVID ORR IN BARDERA, SOMALIA

PEOPLE gazed skywards and waved as our small aircraft circled overhead. Around them lay flooded fields and devastated homes. Camped on a ridge with whatever possessions they had salvaged, they were safe. But should the waters rise further, they might drown.

After more than a month of unusually heavy rainfall, much of southern Somalia lies submerged. Rivers have broken their banks, pouring muddy torrents over hundreds of square miles of land. Villages have been destroyed, crops ruined and roads and bridges washed away. In some areas people are reported to have sought safety in trees, where they have been for nearly a week. No one knows how many have drowned but the toll rises daily.

"Bodies are being swept downstream by the River Jubba," said Abdul Rashid, a Somali aid worker in the Indian Ocean port of Kismayo yesterday. "People inland are

fleeing to higher ground, seeking out anthills and mango trees for safety."

An estimated 200,000 are believed to be at risk in a region more used to drought. The rains started early last month and show no sign of letting up. Problems are compounded by large numbers of crocodiles and poisonous snakes, all competing with people for the little dry land.



An unknown number of people have been attacked by reptiles and even hippos. With health facilities limited and little serum for snake bites, the situation is critical.

The United Nations has appealed for millions of pounds, equipment and skilled people to help it to cope. Agostino Paganini, a UN spokesman, says unless they reach stricken areas with helicopters and boats, thousands may die.

The relief effort is hampered by Somalia's lack of a central government since civil war broke out in 1991. Rival clans compete for control of the shattered country, enforcing their will with a frightening array of weaponry. Kismayo is held by General Mohamed Said Morgan, a colourful warlord with a revolver hanging from his hip. His "technicals" — pick-up trucks with heavy-calibre machineguns driven by youths high on khat, the locally favoured narcotic — roar round the town's streets while a dozen miles down the



A Somali soldier patrols by boat through the flooded town of Bardera, watched by children wading in search of missing belongings

road the fighters of Hussein Mohamed Aidid, a rival warlord, await the next skirmish. Flying north up the Jubba valley in a light aircraft supplied by the UN, dozens of flooded settlements could be seen yesterday. In some, only the circular thatched roofs of villagers' huts remain above water. Floods stretch as far as

the eye can see on either side of the river.

Bardera is in one of Somalia's main agricultural areas, but its fields of cereals, tobacco, fruit and vegetables have been ruined. So, too, have the bakaro — underground stores for grain. The population of Bardera has been swollen by an influx of

40,000 displaced people in recent weeks.

Yesterday the first delivery of 10 tonnes of emergency food and medical supplies, as well as blankets and tarpaulins, was airlifted to the town by the UN. "People have drowned and in the town they've been crushed to death by falling buildings," said Bill Condie of

Unicef yesterday. Dozens of camps lining the Jubba's banks are cut off by the floodwaters and reachable only by boat. "People are already very hungry," said Commissioner Hassan Mohamed in Bullo Garas camp yesterday. "Our food is almost finished. I have seen crocodiles and snakes swim-

ming in these camps. I know two people who were attacked by crocodiles."

Many vicious attacks have been reported as the terrified beasts are driven into close contact with people. World Vision aid workers had to be airlifted from Buale town after a crocodile was discovered in their compound.

Secret deal ends Disney feud

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A GAME of chicken involving millions of dollars between two of Hollywood's top power brokers has ended in a secret deal, ruling out a trial that would have laid bare studio accounts and revealed much about how film moguls reward themselves.

One of Hollywood's nastiest feuds ended suddenly and behind closed doors with a settlement of Jeffrey Katzenberg's \$250 million (£148 million) lawsuit against his old employer, the Walt Disney Company. The deal's terms were not disclosed but sources believe the studio may have to pay out more than \$100 million.

Mr Katzenberg, a legendary workaholic and founder of the new Dreamworks studio, claims he is owed vast sums for producing the \$700 million hit, *The Lion*

King, and other films while head of the Disney feature film division.

His dispute turned personal when Michael Eisner, the Disney chairman, refused to promote him despite ten years of loyal and lucrative service at the home of Mickey Mouse and a working relationship going back even further.

Mr Katzenberg, who cast himself as the underdog facing an ungrateful Goliath, appears to have scored a substantial victory by insisting from the start that he wanted a trial. His running battle with Mr Eisner reportedly reached a climax when he stormed out of a tense meeting last week in a Los Angeles hotel saying he would see his old boss in court. It convinced Mr Eisner that his foe was ready to fight it out.

Mr Katzenberg left the Walt Disney

Company in 1994 after the company's president, Frank Wells, was killed in a Nevada skiing accident. Passed over for the vacant job, Mr Katzenberg founded Dreamworks with Steven Spielberg and David Geffen, the recording billionaire.

His lawsuit was based on a claim that his contract guaranteed him 2 per cent of the several billion dollars earned by Disney projects initiated under him. The stakes were raised when Michael Ovitz, briefly Mr Eisner's right-hand man, left the studio with a payoff worth \$100 million after 14 disastrous months on the job.

Mr Katzenberg, who re-mortgaged three homes to come up with his initial stake in Dreamworks, had reportedly said he would never settle for less than Mr Ovitz.



Katzenberg passed over for promotion

Clinton evades 'lame duck' tag

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON is battling to show that he is not yet a lame duck, in the wake of Monday's defeat in Congress over the crucial "fast-track" Bill to give him the power to negotiate foreign trade deals.

Some speculated in Washington yesterday that the White House would be more likely now to take an aggressive line towards Iraq to demonstrate the Administration's ability to set the political agenda. Mr Clinton used yesterday's Veterans' Day holiday to declare that President Saddam Hussein's refusal to admit American inspectors was unacceptable. He also

repeated passionately his backing for Nato's eastwards expansion and for treaties to combat nuclear proliferation. Those pledges are seen as part of the White House's urgent search for ways to demonstrate its commitment to America's role in international affairs in the aftermath of Monday's setback.

The Administration denies that Mr Clinton's decision on Monday to withdraw the Bill rather than face defeat marks a turning point in his presidency, saying that the White House will present the Bill again in the new year. Officials point out, too, that the

President's fast-track authority lapsed three years ago and that the sharp divisions within the Democratic Party that have deterred him from reappearing for it are nothing new.

But Congress's rebuttal comes in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to strike down moves to tighten gun control and to curb internet pornography — key pledges in Mr Clinton's election campaign last year. The President, confounded by Congress and the Supreme Court, is now searching for new ways to leave his mark.

Leading article, page 23



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Couple's \$2m art treasures go for \$206m



Victor and Sally Ganz, who focused their buying on high-quality work by a few blue-chip artists

James Bone on a New York couple who built up a great art collection on Saturday shopping expeditions

PERHAPS the world's greatest private collection of modern art, acquired for less than \$2 million (£1.2 million) by a New York couple who strolled the galleries on Saturday afternoons, has sold at auction for a record \$206 million.

Victor and Sally Ganz began their now legendary 115-piece collection with the purchase of Picasso's *Le Rêve* (The Dream) in 1941 for \$7,000.

In the sale of their estate at Christie's on Monday, Picasso's portrait of his teenage mistress, Marie-Thérèse Walter, sleeping in an armchair, fetched \$48.2 million.

An intensely private couple, the Ganzes hung their collection in simple frames on the walls of their town house in Gracie Square, sometimes obscuring them with lamps or flower vases. Mr Ganz, who died in 1987, ran his family's costume jewellery business and his wife, who died in January, devoted herself to charitable causes.

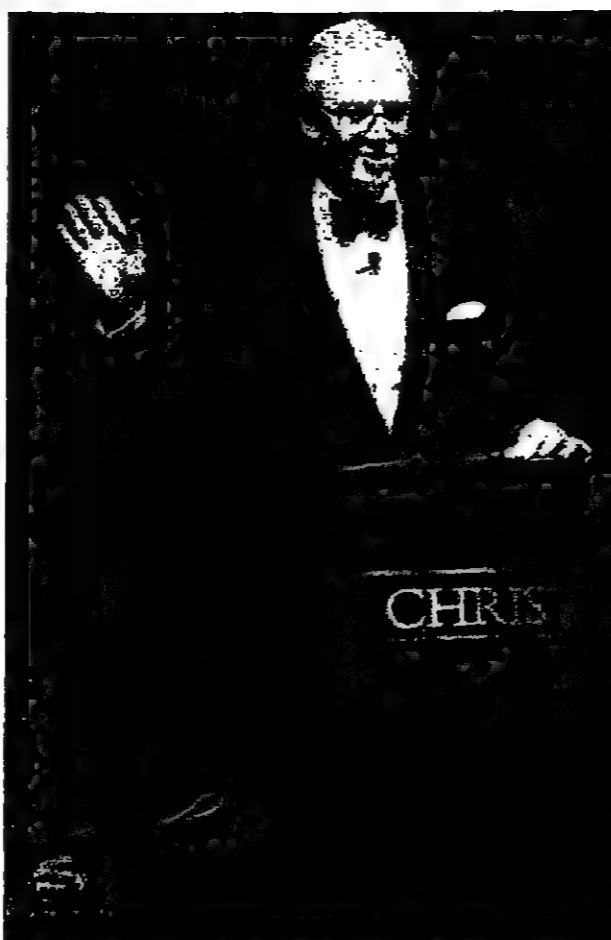
Though not particularly rich by the standards of today's tycoons, they amassed one of the finest private collections of modern art by focusing their buying on high-quality work by a few blue-chip artists. The couple became the largest private owners of Picassos in America and acquired major works by Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella and Eva Hesse, the German-born minimalist sculptor.

Tony Ganz, their son, said his father "had taught himself to find the toughest picture, often a picture that he did not understand initially and was not yet in love with. And pretty much without fail, those were the pictures that turned out to be the great ones".

Drawn by their reputation for connoisseurship, an estimated 25,000 people visited Christie's in the two weeks before the sale to view the Ganzes' collection.

On Monday, the auction house's four salerooms were crammed with 2,000 people, more than twice the normal attendance. Sixty telephones, double the usual number, were set up to accept bids and every private office was rigged with closed-circuit television for buyers seeking to watch in privacy. Many of the world's best-known collectors and dealers were in the crowd.

With the art market surging along with the soaring stock market, the sale easily exceeded its estimate of \$125 million, with the Picassos alone accounting for \$164 million. The previous record for the collection of a single private owner was the \$123.4 million fetched in 1989 by Impressionist and modern art belonging to John Dorrance, the Campbell's Soup heir.



Christopher Burge, of Christie's, starts the bidding for Picasso's *Le Rêve* bought for \$7,000 in 1941 and, below, *Woman in an Armchair* which fetched \$48 million

Mr Ganz's purchase of *Le Rêve* came at a turning point in his life. Within six months of buying the canvas, he got married and began psychoanalysis. When staying in Monte Carlo in 1948, the couple set out to meet the artist. They drove to nearby Golfe-Juan and befriended a local bookseller whose shop Picasso patronised. The next

the \$51.6 million paid at the height of the art boom in 1989 for *Pierre's Wedding*. It was the fifth highest sum paid for a painting at auction.

The Ganzes took the biggest financial risk of their collecting career when they paid \$212,500 for the 15 works in Picasso's series, *Women of Algiers*, painted in 1954 and 1955. Although taking after

It was a remarkable evening. What a tribute it was to Victor and Sally Ganz, to their extraordinary taste and extraordinary judgment

day they lay in wait at a café until they saw Picasso enter the store.

They followed him inside and started a conversation by telling him how they had bought *Le Rêve*. The \$48.2 million paid by an anonymous buyer for the painting at Christie's was the second-highest auction price for a Picasso, lagging only behind

Delacroix, the series was in fact a sneaking homage to that lover of the courtesan or odalisque, Matisse, who had died just weeks earlier.

Mr Ganz realised that he might have spent too much for the series, and sold all but five works to dealers and museums for \$138,000. Four of the five remaining canvases were sold at Christie's: the most

important, version O, to Libby Howe, the London dealer, for \$31.9 million.

The only artist Mr Ganz can claim to have actually discovered was the sculptor Eva Hesse, who died of brain cancer in 1970 at the age of 34.

The Ganzes were making their customary round of the New York galleries one Saturday in November 1968 when Mrs Ganz got tired feet and returned home after viewing a Francis Bacon show. Her husband went on to view Hesse's first show at the Fischbach Gallery and was entranced by her strange constructions of sheet metal, staples and rubber tubing. He ended up buying three of her works.

Hesse's *Unfinished, Untitled or Not Yet*, a 1966 sculpture of polyethylene, sand, paper and cotton string, fetched a record price at Christie's of \$2.2 million. *Vinculum I* (1969) became the artist's second most expensive work when it sold for \$1.2 million.

The only painting that did not sell was Rauschenberg's *Rigger* (1961) which failed to reach its estimate with a top

bid of \$2.4 million. "It was a remarkable evening," Christopher Burge, Christie's chairman, said. "What a tribute it was to Victor and Sally Ganz, to their extraordinary taste and extraordinary judgment."

As the buyers dispersed, the talk of the many in the art world was of Peter Max, the pop artist whose psychedelic work made its way onto T-shirts and coffee mugs in the 1960s. At a court hearing on Monday, Max pleaded guilty to avoiding taxes on more than \$1 million in art sales by asking for cash payments or bartering his work for real estate. Max, 60, faces a minimum four months in jail.

□ Tax blow: London's art and antiques trade, the second largest in the world after New York, has been hit by a 2.5 per cent value-added tax imposed by the European Union.

A report commissioned by the British Art Market Federation industry showed that artworks imports from outside the EU have fallen 40 per cent since 1994. The EU is considering doubling the tax in 1999.



Fears of Cuban nuclear leak ridiculed

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A PENTAGON plan to build a \$3 million (£1.9 million) radiation detection facility in Florida to guard against nuclear leaks from Cuba is being ridiculed by experts. Critics say the perceived danger — and the Pentagon's response — is the result of scaremongering by ill-informed Cuban-

American politicians blinded by ideological opposition to the island's Communist leadership. "There's no threat whatsoever from the Cuban nuclear programme," said Jonathan Benjamin Alvarado, an expert on Cuba's nuclear industry at the University of Georgia. He described the early-warning facility as a "colossal waste of time and money". In 1985 Cuba began work on the

Juraguas nuclear power plant, designed to house two Russian nuclear reactors. Located only 180 miles from the Florida Keys, its apparently flawed construction aroused widespread fears in America. Building was suspended in 1992 after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but Cuba now wants to complete the project. Cuban exiles say the Juraguas plant could cause another Chernobyl-like accident.

Brazilian gunmen grab cash on plane

FROM GABRIELLA GAMING IN RIO DE JANEIRO

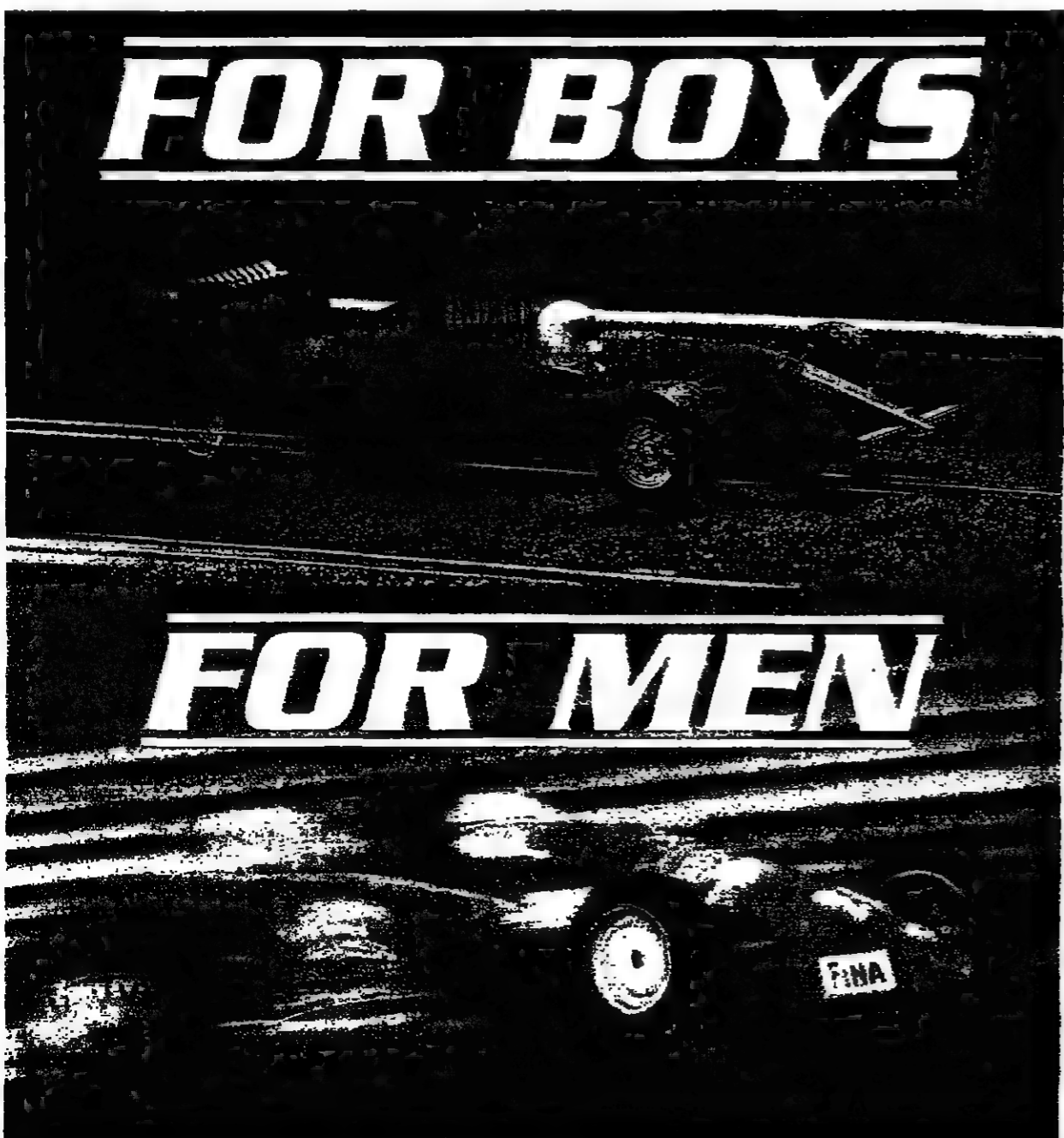
ARMED robbers hijacked a twin-engine aircraft used to ferry banks' cash between remote northeastern towns in Brazil yesterday, escaping with \$2 million (£1.2 million) after foiling airport guards.

The hooded gunmen drove a cross-country vehicle through a barbed-wire fence and onto the landing strip as the plane arrived at the small strip in Jacobina, a town producing sugarcane. People on the airport terrace saw 12 robbers wielding machineguns fire into the air to force the plane to stop. The gang then boarded, made the pilot and five-man crew lie on the runway, and loaded the cash into their vehicle.

Security guards trying to stop the robbers found their weapons no match for the machineguns, two guards being seriously hurt in an exchange of fire.

The Aerostar aircraft had been on its weekly round to move cash between rural branches of the Banco do Brasil in Bahia state. It had set off from Salvador city and planned stopovers in Jacobina and Irecê.

Unusually police were not on hand to provide an armed escort. The manager of the bank's Salvador branch admitted failing to alert the local force, but gave no reason. Police believe the robbers may have been the same gang who last week stole \$4 million (£2.4 million) from a plane at Congonhas airport in São Paulo, the financial capital.



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Do these ads demean men?

Women are used to being portrayed as sex objects in advertisements. But now it is the turn of men. And they don't like it at all. Bill Frost reports

Typeset for decades by the advertising industry, women have long harboured a legitimate grievance against those who present them as either bimbos or housewives.

This advertisement degrades women" stickers pasted over sexist hoardings and mountains of mail received by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) since the late Sixties have done little or nothing to alter the prevailing culture. The ASA

has kept no tally of complaints, but letters highlighting the innate sexism in the industry regularly make up the bulk of the postbag.

But times are changing. Men are now up for exploitation in national advertising campaigns. Storylines featuring the ritual

humiliation of man at the hands of women are becoming commonplace in campaigns aimed at selling everything from cars to clothes. Unsurprisingly, few males relish the role and "girl power" is being exploited by the industry to demean men, the ASA said yesterday.

Sales figures for products marketed on the male degradation ticket indicate that the strategy is working — so much so that women will favour the product advertised in such a way over others promoted on more traditional lines.

Lee, the jeans manufacturer, has mounted one of the most provocative campaigns this year, with nationwide hoardings showing a naked man pinned to the ground by a jeans-clad female leg terminating in a stiletto heel. The

visual message is clearly underscored by a copyline reading: "Put the boot in."

A series of magazine advertisements for Wallis, the clothes chain, shows men about to be killed because they are staring at women. In one, a model is about to have his throat cut because his barber is distracted by a pretty girl.

These adverts have angered men's and women's groups alike, who condemn them as vulgar. "The Lee ad in particular seems incredibly spiteful and nasty," the National Council of Women, an anti-political pressure group, says. "It is a vicious image that puts a gloss on the serious problem of girl gangs and girl violence. Such advertisements fuel the stereotype of women as manipulative and spiteful."

'The first rule is get yourself noticed'

Tube Alexander, the organisation's vice-president, says:

Kay Truelove, of the Grey agency, one of the copywriters responsible for the Lee campaign, says: "I worked with a male colleague on this campaign for a male client who saw that the ad had been done in good humour."

"But there is a realisation behind this trend that women's roles have changed. We get married later, we achieve more at work and generally have more opportunities. There is a lot of disposable income at stake here."

Unsurprisingly, Lee is unrepentant, too. "The ad is a strong image with a self-evident sense of humour," a spokesman said. "Put the boot in" refers to the fact that the ad is for jeans designed to be worn with boots.



Ads from the Lee, Wallis and Impulse campaigns, showing men in humiliating situations. The Advertising Standards Authority says it has received large numbers of complaints about them



The Wallis chain, whose "Dress to Kill" campaign also features a Tube train guard about to be decapitated as he stares at a blonde model walking down the platform, described critics as "over-sensitive". Such images were never to be taken literally, Fiona Davis, the company's marketing director, said. "We researched them very carefully

and our target market sees them as humorous. The objective is to stand out, not to shock — but when anything is distinctive one expects it to be a little controversial."

Nissan, the carmaker, also courted controversy with its campaign to boost sales of the Micra. A poster showed a half-naked man doubled up in pain with his hands over his genitals. The caption reads: "Ask before you borrow it."

Aimed at young women, who make up 70 per cent of the car's buyers, the posters have been described in complaints to the ASA as offensive, violent and sexist. Not so, says Nissan and its ad agency TBWA Stinson Palmer. "People are sophisticated enough to realise that this is advertising hyper-

bole. Even men we researched it with saw the wit and humour of its comments on the nature of relationships," Philip Holliday, group account director, says.

As images of passive or humiliated males proliferate, politicians are being drawn into the controversy. A TV commercial promoting the perfume, Impulse, which showed an artist's model becoming aroused under the amused gaze of a woman student, drew sackloads of criticism here but passed without comment abroad, where a far more explicit cut was shown. Many men found the ad distasteful even though the model's arousal was carefully disguised. Their distress was caused by his humiliation and embarrassment in front of a

class of female art students.

Dr Adrian Rogers, chairman of the Conservative Family Campaign, saw nothing humorous in the commercial. "Ads such as this are in very bad taste and lead to cultural degeneration," he said.

Nicholas Winterton, Tory MP for Macclesfield, was horrified, too. "Young children are going to see this and they will be shocked. The fact that they [the perfume makers] have used a naked model, and worse, that it is a male model and he is getting an erection, tells us much about the product. I find it very smutty."

But Eilida Gibbs, the maker of Impulse, defended the £5.5 million campaign. A spokeswoman said: "Women's attitudes have changed over the past 20 years: they are not naive any more."

But the more candid advertising insiders admit that the phenomenon is not so much a symptom of female liberation, more the latest shock gambit adopted by an industry which thrives on attention.

Jeff Sutthorn is the copywriter responsible for last year's notorious campaign to sell men's underwear with the copyline The Loin King. The ads, showing well-endowed young men in their smalls, were, in his terms, a triumph.

"Sure, it was shock tactics, but the ads were meant to be fun," he says. "The first rule in this business is the same as the last — 'get yourself noticed, no matter what it takes'."

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Two crimes, only one line to take

A WOMAN in Louise Woodward's home town of Elton, Cheshire, was beaten up for refusing to wear a yellow ribbon. All along, there has been only one permissible line to take: Louise is innocent, and to be unconvinced of that is to be guilty of a vicious crime oneself. Equally, there is only one line on the two boys who killed James Bulger: they are evil, and anyone who suggests otherwise is no less evil.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is to set new jail terms for these children, overturning the minimum sentence of 15 years imposed by his predecessor. He has given no sign that he will treat them with any less severity — once the new period has been set, he will review the sentence at the

halfway stage to consider whether it should be altered.

All the same, he is denounced left, right and centre as an apologist for child murderers. For Louise we demanded clemency; for the boys who killed James Bulger we demand no mercy.

In both cases there is one reality: a child's death. And while we instinctively shrink more from the brutal killing of a child by his peers than at the accidental death of one at the hands of an incompetent carter, there is something disconcerting about this. Both cases are upsetting. Reading closely the details of the injuries inflicted on eight-month-old Matthew makes one realise that it cannot be swept away as unfortunate rough han-

Stunted, at least intellectually

I HOLD no particular brief against Demi Moore, but the mere idea of having to sit through her latest film, *GI Jane*, would not fill me with joy. Girl joins army, beats the big boys at their own game — please, leave me alone to languish on my chaise longue rather than have to witness that. And it's not just the fiction contained within the film that fails to interest me

it is the meat of the publicity about the film. Demi Moore did all those one-armed press-ups herself, for real, no stunt people: so what?

What is the appeal of forcing oneself to test one's physical endurance? It's a game for dimwits, a sign of our anti-intellectual age. This is no sexist stance: men who drone on about their fitness, gym routine, and physical prowess are just as ridiculous.

After all, I don't imagine the late Isaiah Berlin ever felt it necessary to impress everyone with the length of time he spent on the exercise bike.

Nigella Lawson



dling. The full picture disturbs in the same way as did that fuzzy security camera video of James being led away by the boys who would later kill him.

I have no desire to go in for the sort of distortion by sentimentality that logged our depiction of the Woodward trial, but it hardly redeems the sanctification of the accused in the one case to go in for rabid demonisation in the other. Can we think that those (then) 10-year-old boys injured James with intent to kill, in the full knowledge of what that would mean? We might feel there was malicious intent: this was a vicious act, ten-year-olds know what they are doing. But this does not mean

they must be treated like hardened criminals. A child cannot be held responsible for his actions in the way that an adult can — and must be punished differently.

We have now to look at what we can do for these children. We cannot bring back James Bulger, but it does not disparage his death to try to make his killers understand what they have done and to recover from it. I don't say only leniency is desirable — retribution is a necessary part of sentencing — but the bloodlust displayed by a public anxious to exonerate in one instance and to condemn in another can play no part in any respectable decision.

Sex appeal and Barbie

YOU might think it strange that Mattel, the maker of Barbie, is suing the Danish pop group Aqua for sexualising the doll in their song *Barbie Girl*. As everyone knows, the thing about Barbie is her disproportionately large (and pointy) bosom, her curvy shape and pouting face. She has the sort of sex appeal that little girls cannot resist — and I speak as one who has a shrine to Barbie (complete with wallpaper and lampshade) in the house and *Barbie Girl* on a continual loop in the cassette player. But Mattel is right in one respect: the other striking thing about Barbie is that — painted-on, either gaze and breasts notwithstanding — she is about as unsexual as a doll can get, which may explain why she is such a temptation to small girls and gay men.

It's almost too late to learn Yiddish

THERE is nothing more at the whim of market forces than language. Assemble as many Académies Françaises or their equivalents as you like, call all the committees possible to foster the speaking of Welsh or Breton, and it will make no difference. People will speak the language that serves them best.

Which makes it all the more sad to hear that Yiddish is dying out as its elderly speakers pass away and young Jews, assimilated into their new coun-

tries, find they have no need to speak it. This month saw the last edition of the Israeli Yiddish monthly *Israel Stimme*, and although the New York *Forward* is still going, its Yiddish edition makes up only a quarter of the sales.

As I read of the language's fading, I resolved again to learn it: as a German speaker, how difficult can it be to learn that language's creole? But as they say: "Kimm, ich nicht hunt, kimm ich morgan." Whatever that means.

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Harriet Harman with husband Jack Dromey, of the TGWU



David Mills and his wife, Tessa Jowell (right). His former association with Formula One led to cries of conflict of interest



Tony Blair and Cherie Booth: she may face sacrifices

Marriage and the dispatch box

Solid, supportive and always in the wrong. Mary Ann Sieghart on the trials of political union

Before we got married, I came to one unshakable understanding with my husband. The only ground for divorce, we agreed, would be if the other decided to become an MP. Neither of us would have minded being a politician. What we could not bear was to be a politician's spouse.

So my heart went out to Tessa Jowell and her husband, David Mills, this week. As the Minister for Public Health, she had to defend the exemption of Formula One from the ban on tobacco sponsorship of sport. Then it transpired that he had been a non-executive director of the Benetton motor racing team. The cry went up: "Conflict of interest!"

Anyone who knows Ms Jowell would realise that this could not have happened to a straighter person. As soon as she was appointed, her husband declared all his business

interests to her Permanent Secretary. Because there was, at that time, no guidance for ministerial spouses, Ms Jowell wrote to the Cabinet Secretary asking for help. Mr Mills, meanwhile, gave up any directorships that were likely to come into conflict with his wife's new job.

The irony is that Ms Jowell was pressing for a policy that went against her husband's business interests — and it was Downing Street that overruled her. Unfortunately she is not allowed to admit this, as it would make the Government look divided. She insists that she completely agrees with Tony Blair's U-turn — with a self-denying steadfastness for which she will be rewarded, presumably before she reaches Heaven.

But what hell it must be for Mr Mills. After all, husbands are not used to making sacrifices for their wives' careers;

although they often expect the reverse. He is unusually supportive. "I feel very proud of her," he said when I spoke to him over the summer. "I would recommend any husband to be married to a successful woman provided, like Tessa, she had her priorities right."

It is when priorities clash, however, that politicians have problems. And it is in the nature of things that these clashes are likely to hit women more than men. Ms Jowell's two children are used to their mother working — "I don't think the children feel undermothered for one second," says Mr Mills. But the demands of being a politician — and particularly a minister — are so great that something generally has to give.

In Ms Jowell's case it is sleep. Like a more famous female politician before her, she gets up long before dawn

to wade through her red boxes of ministerial work before the rest of the household wakes up. And Mr Mills is also a very active father: "I've always done a lot for the children and happily so." As a senior partner in a firm of solicitors, he can organise his life to suit the family, taking time off during half-term and holidays.

But even Cabinet ministers, if they are women, are usually expected to be in charge of the home. They may be able to afford to pay someone else to do the housework, but running a household and a family still requires command of endless domestic minutiae.

And while most employers these days are reasonably

sympathetic about parents taking time off for a nursery play or a sick child, Westminster is miles behind the times. There is an assumption in politics that nothing takes precedence over the work, even serious illness — terminally ill MPs have been brought in on trolleys to vote.

Traditionally, politicians' wives have accepted that, once their husbands are in power, they have to take up the slack. But it is harder for men to accept the supremacy of politics when their wives are ministers. I recall talking to Jack Dromey, national secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, years ago about being married

to Harriet Harman. He is, in general, very supportive of her. But, he said: "I see what women have had to put up with for hundreds of years, being defined through the person to whom they're married." I asked him then to imagine Harriet as a Cabinet minister. Would he be the one to race home if a child were sick? No, he could not countenance that.

With increasing numbers of two-career parents in the House of Commons, these tensions will undoubtedly build. It is not just that there are more women MPs: the men, too, are more likely to have working wives.

And some wives who have stellar careers are now taking a dim view of being expected to give them up for their husbands' jobs. Cherie Booth has blazed a trail — continuing at the Bar, acting both on behalf of and against the Crown,

while her husband is Prime Minister. But even she may have to make sacrifices. It would be hard for her to sit as a judge when she needs to take time off to accompany Mr Blair on state occasions. Besides, there are still three children's lives to organise more or less single-handed.

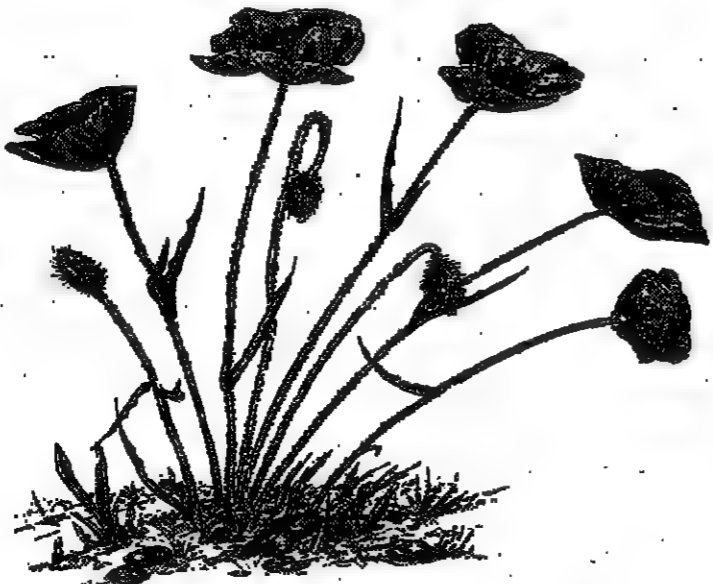
Alice Perkins manages to combine her job as Deputy Director of Spending at the Treasury with being the wife of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and mother of their two children. She avoids Home Office matters, and did so even when Mr Straw was in Opposition. Like David Mills, he is an active father, and even chairs the governors of his children's school.

Conflicts of interest can be avoided, then, provided both that the spouses are flexible and the ministers' bosses are understanding. With hindsight, it might have been more sensible had Frank Dobson exempted Ms Jowell from taking decisions on Formula One, even though her husband had extricated himself from Benetton.

But conflicts of priorities are a different matter. Can politics really justify its unyielding insistence on disrupting family life? Its hours and practices were designed for workaholic men with wives at home. No wonder so many talented people these days resist the lure of Westminster.

Until the world of politics recognises that MPs are human beings, too, with partners who have lives of their own and children who need to see their parents, it will attract only those who have either superhuman sleeping patterns or unusually self-sacrificing spouses. And both, alas, are all too rare.

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Of churches and Coronation Street

The footprints of Christianity can still be found all over modern Britain, says Libby Purves

IN AN age of self-conscious newness, it is good to be perverse. Just as the Government gets into its spooky rebranding of Britain as a young country, the serendipitous miracle of Radio 4 scheduling means that for the next six Wednesday evenings I turn up to lob an unsanitised bucketful of history over it: the kind that you can never quite get rid of.

Mysterious Ways, starting tonight (Radio 4, 7.20pm) is a genuine oddity. Halfway between history and news, unconnected with the religious department, it traces the footprints left on secular Britain by 1,000 years of Christianity.

Not just physical footprints: 28,487 parish churches and a pride of cathedrals are the least of it. The team dug out eminences and mavericks, historians and holinesses, two cardinals, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Tony Benn. We unravelled legacies beyond our wildest hopes, weird, unexpected strands of continuity over ten centuries emerged in politics, law, art, science, education, sex, literature, music.

We found Bishop Odo killing with a blunt mace in the 11th century because bishops may not shed blood, and Bishop Winnington Ingram in 1915 urging soldiers to kill good Germans as well as bad. We drew direct lines from medieval church carvings to Vera Duckworth of *Coronation Street*, from Charles Wesley to Britpop. We

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On the fast track to depravity

Simon Barnes finds serious flaws in Formula One racing

How many forms of depravity can you name, in the sport of Formula One motor-racing? I'll tell you some of those that I know, some I suspect — and those I miss you'll surely pardon.

There are plenty of them. In fact, looking at Formula One today, we have a bravura display of sleight of hand. More than that: a glorious buffet supper of money corrupting, and big money corrupting absolutely.

Help yourself, and don't hold back, because there's plenty more where that lot came from. To start with, we have straightforward cheating. This occurred when Michael Schumacher attempted to drive Jacques Villeneuve off the track, in order to win the world championship for himself. In some ways, this is the most venial of all the sins presented to us on the buffet table. True, the manoeuvre may not have been lethal or premeditated — and killing your opponent is not acceptable even in Formula One — but it was dangerous and a straightforward case of breaking the rules; and you get that in every sport, at every level.

The complication arises when we recall that Schumacher's 1997 case was frighteningly similar to what happened in 1994, when many people believe that Schumacher drove Damon Hill off the track and won the world championship — and got away with it. The message is clear: if there are no official complaints sporting administration will sit on its hands and do nothing. Not surprisingly it will be seen as weak and expedient.

The next dish of depravity is less dangerous physically, but goes to the heart of the sport and is far more destructive of it. This is the collusion between racing teams to sideline a challenger or work together against a rival Formula One team. There are those who suspect the McLaren and Williams teams of ganging up against Ferrari and would cite what looked like the After-You-Claude finish of the same race. While Villeneuve may not be the kind of driver to let someone else win, the evidence of the Williams tapes needs some explaining. Whatever the case there are countless other examples of holding back or boxing in for reasons best known to those who manage the racing teams themselves.

It is the sort of thing that goes on all the time in Formula One: at least, that is the way the gossip goes. A Formula One insider must always strive to be more conspiracy-theorist than thou. The intriguing thing, this time, is that we have the tapes which have provoked what should be some probing questions.

And that, inevitably, has set the conspiracy theorists theorising harder than ever. Who gave the tapes to *The Times*? And why? Who were they intended to discredit? Well, we know who they succeeded in discrediting: absolutely everybody, themselves included. The entire sport: nothing less.

Then comes the depravity of judgment, in yesterday's ab-

surd almost non-punishing sentence on Schumacher. The sport fought shy of a ban: their man will be on telly for the first race next season. That is what counts. A more self-serving judgment could hardly be imagined.

However, the *pièce de résistance* at this buffet of nonsense is the Labour Party which, filled with all the new-broom enthusiasm of the freshly appointed soccer boss, promised to outlaw tobacco sponsorship of sport.

But it made an exception for Formula One. This is rather like banning prostitutes, but making an exception for female ones. Alas, it was then revealed that the Labour Party had been given a small pre-election gift — by their own admission as much as £1 million — by, er, Bernie Ecclestone, of Formula One.

It is hard to say what is more unpleasant. Is it the fact, brought into new and sharper focus by the latest revelations, that Formula One motor racing is prepared to take money from those wanting to persuade people to consume an addictive and lethal drug that is also dangerous to innocent bystanders? Or is it that governments should be beyond reproach and yet in this case seem to have made an exception to the rule because it had received large dollops of cash from the very organisation it was about to damage with a full-scale advertising ban?

I wonder how many children actually take up smoking because of the drug's almost symbiotic association with the glamour of Formula One? Quite a lot, I imagine — why else would the tobacco industry bother? I am reminded, as last week, of the great Tom Lehrer, and this time of his song *The Old Dope Peddler*. "He gives the kids free samples! Because he knows full well! That today's young innocent faces! Will be tomorrow's clientele!"

Many of these dishes of nonsense or depravity are based on one of the curious and little-acknowledged facts of Formula One. Blocking, colluding, deliberate crashing, saying "after-you" — all these take place, because Formula One motor-racing takes place on tracks where sometimes it seems all but impossible to race motors.

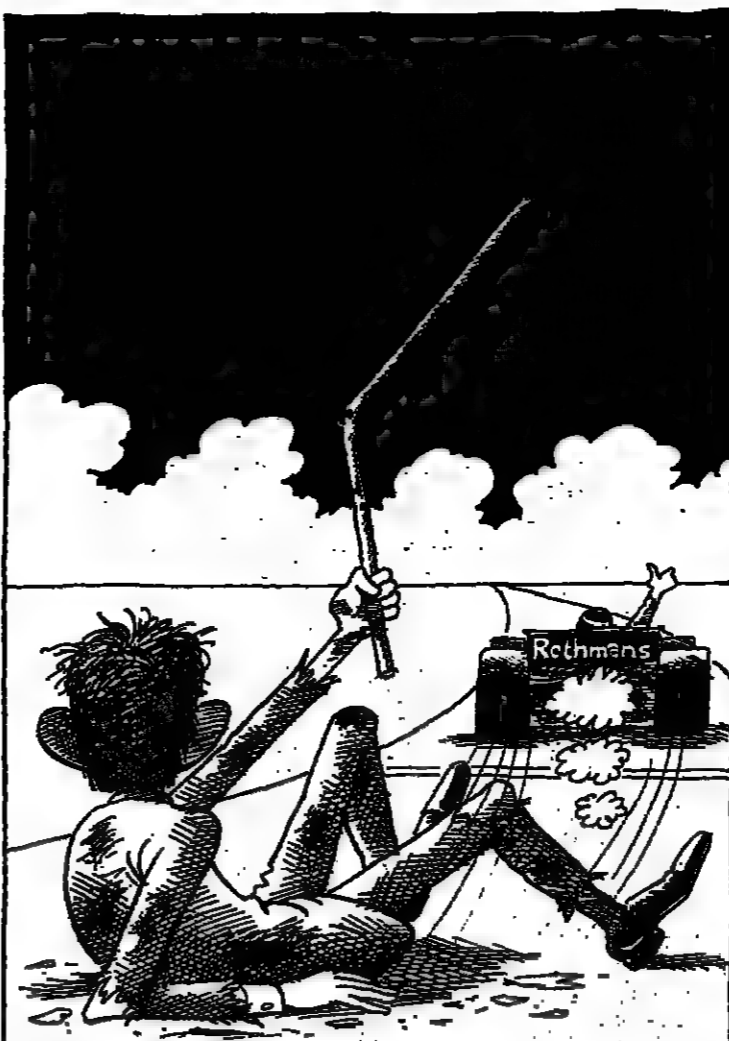
There is a serious design flaw: it is almost impossible for one car to overtake another. Lacking the very first and crucial element of racing, Formula One falls back on its pitstop strategies and its conspiracies. It's great soap opera, but sport it ain't.

Schumacher broke the rules. Williams and McLaren look too cosy by half. The Labour Party has driven straight up its own exhaust pipe. Formula One is discredited in every possible fashion. And in being so, it simply goes from strength to strength.

Formula One has still got 'em all hooked, and the scandals do not hinder it quite the reverse. The audience grows and grows: and what else matters? To them, I mean? Pass us another gasper, old boy. My little lad's got mine.



THE CHEQUERED FLAG



Alan Coren

The strange case of a combustible comestible from California

Never look a gift horse in the mouth. Look it in the bowels. In the bowels is where the Greeks liked, waiting to debauch and sack.

A free pudding arrived this morning. I did not immediately know it was a free pudding. I did not know it was any kind of pudding. I knew only that the doorbell had trilled, and that I had signed for a small yet heavy cardboard cube which I carried into the kitchen, put on the table, and looked at. I now knew it had come from the United States, because it had 32 Elvis Presley stamps covering the whole of one flank, which in itself was arresting, since, set out as they were in painstaking phalanx, the effect the Elvises collectively created was of a small, silkscreened Warhol. The person who stuck these down, ran my first thought, is no ordinary person. I lifted the box again, turned it, and now saw that it carried a US Customs declaration, identifying it as "gifted comestible bakery for personal consumption, value not more than \$10".

Knowing me as you do, you will be unsurprised to learn that I spent the next minute or so wondering just how gifted this comestible bakery might be given the limitless ingenuity of Americans, the box could well contain, say, a dozen tap-dancing bagels, or an angel cake with a PhD in quantum mechanics, or a fondant fancy which, when its glass cherry was poked, did an impression of Groucho Marx reciting the Gettysburg Address — remote offences. I grant you, especially for less than ten bucks, but, then again, the box bore a California postmark, so nothing was impossible.

It was time either to chuck it in a bucket of water and run, or open it. Not the easiest of choices — a gifted West Coast comestible carried by 32 obsessively arranged Elvises gives off a sharp psychopathic whiff — but I am not young; it has been a full life, my affairs are in order, and the daily was using the bucket, so I removed the wrapping paper, and prised open the lid.

Nothing went bang. Inside, there was a lot of bubble-wrap, and inside that there was something not, indeed, unlike a bomb: the sort of bomb you find in animated cartoons, round, black, shiny, and with a curiously thingy poking out of the top in this instance holy. It smelt of brandy. It was a Christmas pudding.

It had a card for me. The card had holly on it, too, and robins, and silver bells, and a dark brown stain indicating that a long, boring flight in such tantalising proximity to booze had got the better of the card. A pity, because when I plucked the card out to discover who my distant benefactor was, all I discovered was that his/her writing had been illegibilised by the pudding's stain. Worst of all, there was no way of telling whether the card had ever carried a name or address. I say worst of all not because it meant that I could not write to thank my benefactor. It meant that, if he/she had withheld the name or address, how could I be sure that the pudding had not been sent by a distant malefactor?

There are a lot of very peculiar characters over there, mooching the Pacific shoreline and jabbering to themselves; they follow strange gods, they imbibe strange substances, they do strange things, often serially. In a culture whose legally appointed guardians once sent exploding cigars to Fidel Castro, who could with any confidence say that some unofficial crackpot, some lunatic sec, had not decided to express its contempt for Christmas by filling the mails with poisoned puddings?

I know six people in California. I phoned them all, even though I had not seen them in 20 years, and asked, I have little doubt that all six subsequently hung up thanking their lucky stars that, however wacky California might be, it wasn't as wacky as England. What do I do now? I do not want to bin what might be a delicious treat from someone who loves me, but nor do I want, on Christmas Day, to walk into my dining room with a flaming item designed to snuff the lot of us out.

Have I, that is, been sent a Trojan pudding? When dotty old Ezra Pound foresaw new Troys that tumble, sizzling, was perhaps thinking of Cricklewood? With crazy Americans, you can never be sure.

Exploding the myth

It is time the West stopped fooling itself that bombs destroy dictators

I cannot believe Tony Blair means to support Bill Clinton in resuming the punitive bombing of Iraq. This week British and American forces are said to be selecting targets for such strikes, unless Saddam Hussein withdraws his opposition to American UN inspectors. It beggars belief that Labour's prophets of "moralism" can see bombing as a sensible way out of this impasse. Yet so it seems. British aircrews may themselves carry out the bombing.

Both Mr Blair and his Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, are seasoned supporters of aerial bombardment. They jerked to attention as Tomahawks rained down on Baghdad in September of last year, when Mr Clinton was under pressure from Bob Dole for being weak on foreign policy. Mr Cook claimed that the missiles would "protect the Kurdish safe havens" — despite the CIA having just abandoned these havens to Saddam's Kurdish allies. When the bombs proved ineffective, the then Prime Minister, John Major, said they were "not as successful as one might have wished", and won Labour backing in support for more bombing.

What are now dubbed "CNN" raids are indefensible. They kill real people. They do little military or economic damage, but at a huge cost. Their principal boost is to the standing of American Presidents back home, and to Saddam himself. Saddam precipitated the present crisis to win precisely this outcome. The United Nations weapons inspection of Iraq is a charade, and was revealed as such by the 1995 defection of members of Saddam's family to Jordan. The inspection is chiefly a display of UN hyperactivity, but one that enables Iraq to play cat and mouse with the West. Saddam can reassert his leadership of the anti-American/Zionist crusade and convince his citizens that they should stick to him for defence. He is the great survivor. He is the Arab who faces down the might of Uncle Sam. He only needs an occasional Tomahawk.

In 1991, 1993, 1996 and now in 1997, America has been happy to oblige. This week television networks screened the customary publicity footage showing cruise missiles as clean, precision weapons. The sight of them being unwrapped on the deck of a carrier is supposed to send

dictators quaking into submission. So says the instruction booklet. That is what Foreign Ministers, or at least British ones, like to believe. The Gulf War showed, to those who still needed showing, that cruise missiles may be Space Age technology but are Dark Ages war. Tomahawks are hardly more accurate than Germany's V1 and V2 rockets in the Second World War. A bomb that misses by 100ft, as did most bombs that fell on Baghdad in 1990-91, more than falls. Depending on its cargo, it fragments, blasts, fries or dismembers its victims. What is obscene is that it does so supposedly to stop Iraq making bombs that use poisons.

Aerial bombardment enrages populations and strengthens those who purport to defend them. The six months of bombing of Iraq by American and Allied planes in 1990 utterly failed to achieve its goal, which was to "bring Saddam to his knees" without need for a land invasion. Such was the cry of armchair Bomber Harris to the hawks of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. All air forces claim they can "bomb" the enemy to the negotiating table or the Dark Ages, according to taste. Such empty arrogance is piously believed by politicians eager to be seen as active, yet terrified of committing ground troops to battle.

Iraq's leadership has now joined the lucky group of regimes propped up, apparently without limit, by the crassness of Western diplomacy. The economic sanctions in place against Iraq are as ineffective as the bombing. They hit the poor hardest and the rulers not at all. Far from inducing the former to rise up against the latter, they enable rulers to assert ever fiercer authority. The need for rationing and import-substitution justifies emergency measures that centralise and entrench power. Sanctions warriors love to claim that sanctions are "working", when they are merely "biting".

Any fool can impoverish a country. Why postwar diplomacy's chief gift to the "long march of folly" should be sanctions and punitive bombing is a mystery. Both are known to be counterproductive. They impede trade and thus the liberalisation of political economies. The sanctions against Iraq have been grotesquely anti-humanitarian. They have been awesomely hypocritical. Why is Iraq's misbehaviour towards internal dissidents singled out for savage intervention, and not that of Syria or Israel, both of whom have committed acts of actual aggression against their neighbours?

Yet if economic sanctions are a cowardly proxy for war, bombing is a cruel one. The bombing raid is random corporal punishment. It makes a noise and looks good on television. The sight of jets screaming off the decks of carriers into the sunset, of a missile curving beautifully towards its target, of a pilot shouting "target hit", all sends a primitive thrill through a politician, as if recalling the old thrill of war. A bomb teaches 'em a lesson, makes a bang, plays well back home. It may not kill villains but at least blood is

split. When a bomb carries UN markings it is also blessed, cleansed and morally armed. The statesman becomes an enforcer for world peace. This moral blindness extends to the media. As a BBC documentary showed last Saturday, the press tends to censor what happens when a bomb lands, as if it would spoil the effect.

If this psychology is understandable, less so is its appeal to British Governments. Support for American adventurism, right or wrong, was not always unconditional. When in 1983 President Reagan invaded Grenada, mistakenly bombing to bits the mental hospital and its inmates, Margaret Thatcher was outraged. She told her friend that, no matter how bad the Grenadian regime, this was an unjustified infringement of Grenadian sovereignty. (America later bombed the centre of Panama City, killing hundreds, in an effort to arrest General Noriega.)

The Major Government was less independent-minded: it supported George Bush and Mr Clinton in Iraqi raids blatantly timed for domestic consumption. When the Conservative Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, supported Mr Clinton's raid last year, Labour cheered him on, despite every other Nato ally distancing itself from what was widely seen as an electioneering stunt. Now Mr Blair and Mr Cook appear ready to support another such adventure, to "send Saddam a message" — a message he eagerly wants to hear.

This is not a moral foreign policy. For seven years sanctions and bombing have been tried and failed. If Britain wants a proper Iraqi "policy", it should seek an end to sanctions, flood the country with trade, help to pluralise its institutions and offer scholarships to Iraqis at British universities. In other words, the policy should be the opposite of one that clearly does not work. Such a "contact strategy" would not only be humanitarian, it would almost certainly hasten the day when Saddam Hussein is toppled by enemies better able to garner local support.

Meanwhile, we are back to the boy in the bomber. He is probably the most primitive weapon known to human conflict. Yet he is apparently the chosen delivery system of Labour's "moral" foreign policy to the Middle East. Nothing changes.

Simon Jenkins

Hats off

HOW ungallant. And cowardly. Cuddly Ann Widdecombe, who so delicately destroyed Michael Howard's political career, was to record a books programme with Roy Hattersley today. But when the former deputy Labour leader heard that the erstwhile Prisons Minister was about to park her tank on his lawn, he threatened to flounce out. He now earns an ample crust with the pen and had been invited to appear on *Booktalk*, presented by Sir Robin Day, a Saturday evening show on the BBC's disastrous News 24. The subject: Hattersley's new book — *Fifty Years On: A prejudiced history of Britain since the war*.

Unfortunately for Miss W, who was to dissect the book, she is one of his prejudices. When Hattersley heard, he phoned producers threatening not to appear "if she is coming on". At the last minute, Widdecombe — who gave up her weekend to read the waffly tome — was told that she was not welcome. The producers, feebly, caved in. "Mr Hattersley was not madly keen to appear with Ann Widdecombe," says an irritable BBC type. "He says he didn't want it to turn into a political debate, which was awkward for us because we like Ann." As do I.

Howard's way

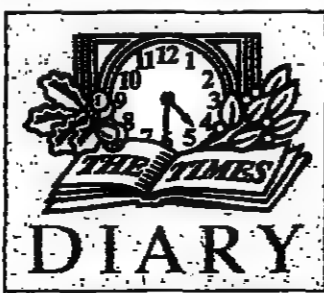
LUXURIATING in the title of Shadow Foreign Secretary appears not to be enough to satisfy Howard's intellect, or, perhaps, his



No friends Hatters, Widdecombe

monetary ambitions. He is, I hear, considering a rather more lucrative sideline to trawling through the Amsterdam treaty by accepting two plum City jobs.

He will see the benefit of his tenure at the DTI, where he steered through radical deregulation in the City. The former QC's grasp of the financial services industry has not been forgotten by top City firms. Howard's wife, a former model named Sandra, is excited by the prospect of the new jobs. Howard



is now reduced to a backbencher's wage and is loath to return to the Bar, so could do with a cash boost. His parties in Chelsea are good but probably expensive.

Howard had made a million before entering Parliament, but as Home Secretary had little chance to make real money. It is unusual for Shadows to accept alternative income. Still, Labour is hardly in a position to make hay...

Has bean

COFFEE is the latest victim of Clare Short's political correctness. She is to force MPs to drink "humanely produced" coffee, in a rather

water attempt to revive her once proud "moral" commitment to Third World parts.

From today, the House canteen will stop serving coffee that does not contain Tiki Caffé. And with 2,500 cups served daily at the Commons, that is a lot of right-on beans. Not all MPs are thirsting for the stuff. "It is unhelpful for the Government to enter into gimmicks rather than a substantive foreign policy," thunders one Gary Streeter, Shadow Foreign Affairs spokesman. "I am happy to drink my coffee wherever it comes from."

● **HOPEFUL** cutting pinned up in



"One good U-turn deserves another"

the new study of the Labour MP Stephen Pound: "Blair rattled by Pound's strength."

Syked up

HE MAY be unloved by the CBI, but William Hague has acquired himself a new, and unexpected, business friend: Paul Sykes, a fellow Yorkshireman, and more importantly, a millionaire. It was Sykes who supported Eurosceptic Tories at the election before transferring his money, er, to support the Referendum Movement.

At an otherwise dreary business conference in Harrogate last week, Hague spotted the moneyed Europhobe in the audience. A private meeting was promptly arranged. Promises of an ever firmer line on EMU to bring him back on board? Sykes isn't saying. "Mr Sykes will not be talking about this until a week on Wednesday," says one of his bean counters. The Tory party bank manager awaits...

● **AFTER** forks, legs. Uri Geller, who acquired a name of sorts in the Seventies for bending cutlery, has been lending his unique skills to Ruth Steward, an amateur marathon runner, to improve her strides. The Israeli psychic first laid his hands on the League Against Cruel Sports campaigner last April, when she was preparing



Hands on: Ruth Steward

for the annual race in London. She covered the 26 miles in a commendable four hours and ten minutes. With Geller's help, Steward went better earlier this month in New York, finishing in three hours and 54 minutes. "He put his hands on my legs," quivered the runner. "He has enormous energy in his hands and transferred it to me. Everyone has the energy to change their lives. All you need is to tap into it." Just so.

JASPER GERARD

IN BRIEF

Lords back total ban on handguns

Peers last night backed down from a further confrontation with the Government when they agreed to drop two amendments to legislation which will impose a total ban on handguns.

Weeks after inflicting a double defeat on the Government, the House of Lords threw out the two amendments which would have allowed disarmed people to use small calibre weapons and competitive shooters to practise at approved centres. The Bill is now set to receive Royal Assent and become law.

Homes alert

Social housing in London is facing crisis because the rising price of land and property in most areas is making it almost impossible for housing associations to acquire new sites for development, according to a report by the National Housing Federation.

Conjugal rights

Sir John Peel has called for immediate negotiations on the release of his prisoners and, in the meantime, for them to be allowed more contact with their families, including "facilities for the enjoyment of conjugal relationships".

Children at risk

A million children in Britain could be living on their own because they have to look after an alcoholic parent. Many are abused physically and sexually, and neglected emotionally, according to reports from the charities Alcohol Concern and Childline.

Victim wanted

Rudolf "Rudi" King, 21, who was in his car in Willesden, northwest London, was being sought for the murder of Michael Webb, 20, outside Trent nightclub in Hackney, Southend-on-Sea. Two men arrested after the shooting have been released on police bail.

Cool Yule tips

A day-long seminar for people who can't cope with Christmas has been launched by the relationship counselling service Relate. The £35 course on November 29 at Southampton City College will concentrate on teaching families to communicate and not expect too much.

Retiring rhino

A rhinoceros is being retired to Scotland because it is too old to breed. Dick, 28, will join two other elderly rhinos at the Blair Drummond Safari Park near Stirling. All come from the West Midlands Safari Park in Beaudenham, Hereford and Worcester.

CORRECTION

A caption to an agency photograph yesterday accompanying an article on the Spice Girls wrongly identified the man shown as Simon Fuller. In fact it was Bob Grace, the group's song publisher. We apologise for the error.

rn-rat nopa-sat ukam.

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OBITUARIES

LORD MCGREGOR OF DURRIS

Lord McGregor of Durrus, social historian and public servant, died on November 10 aged 76. He was born on August 25, 1921.

Lord McGregor of Durrus was a distinguished academic and learned social historian who dedicated his talents increasingly to practical social problems. The autumnal years of his life were devoted to the freedom of expression, spurred on by his chairmanship of the Royal Commission on the Press, 1974-77, leading on to chairmanship of the Advertising Standards Authority, 1980-90, and then to his being appointed chairman of the Press Complaints Commission in 1991 in the wake of the disbandment of the 37-year-old Press Council. With a quick, even mordant wit, he brought a distinct liveliness and freshness to the wide range of all the social problems that he tackled.

Oliver Ross McGregor, known almost invariably to his friends and academic colleagues as "Mac", may not have been unique among English academics in unostentatiously making available his intellectual skills to the public service, but his output in terms of a royal commission and departmental committees was prodigious. Only his predecessor, but one in the chair of social institutions in the University of London - Baroness Wootton of Abinger - achieved a comparable record.

His chairmanship of a difficult Royal Commission on the Press after his great friend, the High Court judge Sir Morris Fisher, died prematurely at the end of 1974, was perhaps the piece of public work that stood out but he was also a member of four departmental committees, one standing advisory committee for nine years (the Lord Chancellor's on legal aid), and one standing commission for 12 years (the National Parks Commission and its successor, the Countryside Commission).

He possessed one invaluable quality that made him an outstanding and a much sought-after figure - namely, the ability both to marry with rare insight and skill the legal system and social science and to perceive the impact of social change on legislation. Nurtured in the sound tradition of Law, Law and later of History and Glass, he was one of the distinguished band

of students who emerged from the London School of Economics at the outbreak of the Second World War. He himself fathered and furthered the cause of social policy making, grounded in the law in action.

McGregor was a self-proclaimed lawyer *maigre* (he did not conceal his special pleasure when one of his three sons took to the law and successfully practised at the Bar, becoming a QC) and throughout his career, without any legal training, he adapted legal principle to his vast knowledge and understanding of social change, particularly in the field of family law. To this end he formed close personal ties with a few legal practitioners who showed an inclination towards interdisciplinary knowledge and a willingness to take on board the growing body of sociological critiques of the legal system. His alliance with the practicing, rather than with the academic, lawyer displayed his strong feeling that it was the law in action that he wanted to influence, and to be influenced by.

Yet he came to blame the lawyerly dominance of the successive chairmen of the Press Council for its failure to retain the respect of both the newspaper industry and the public, although that criticism was unjustified in respect of the first two independent chairmen, Lord Devlin and Lord Pearce. And he deliberately excluded from the Press Complaints Commission any member with legal training. Lawyers, he once opined in a broadcast, had no place in self-regulation of the press. It was a stance that made him more than ordinarily vulnerable when handling publicity-sensitive complaints to the Press Complaints Commission.

His long association with Morris Fisher was particularly fruitful. Together they were the architects and co-authors of the massive departmental committee report on one-parent families (which Fisher chaired), an outstanding social document far in advance of its times, as evidenced by the fact that no Government has yet agreed to implement its main recommendations. Five years' hard labour, 1969-74, produced as near definitive work on social security for the major category of disadvantaged women and their dependent children as one could imagine. The work clearly reflects McGregor's powerful insistence that social policy had always to be firmly grounded



on sound social science research results. He later became the president both of the National Council for One-Parent Families and the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux from 1981 to 1987.

From 1966 onwards, jointly with Sir Louis Blom-Cooper and Dr Colin Gibson, he directed a legal research unit within his own college (Bedford) of London University, which among other notable activities in socio-legal studies produced much of the research material for the Committee on One-Parent Families. The unit had earlier blazed the trail in this field with its work on *Separated Spouses*, a study of the working of the matrimonial jurisdiction of magistrates' courts. Largely engineered and written by McGregor, in his own crisp and readable prose, the study demonstrated, to the chagrin of magistrates and justices' clerks, how discriminating the jurisdiction was in favour of the better-off spouses and against the poorer classes whose marriages had broken down. These conclusions stemmed instinctively from McGregor's previous interest in the problem of divorce.

The Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce in 1956 had reported inconclusively on the way forward for divorce in a society whose attitudes on marriage had changed pro-

foundly after the family disruptions of the Second World War, licensed at, and provoked by, the ill-researched and ill-digested facts that motivated the various commissions. McGregor promptly sat down, and with astonishing speed produced a minor classic in his *Divorce in England*. He never found the time to update the work, which, despite being overtaken by events, still provides the basic textbook on the subject.

The Legal Research Unit at Bedford College was the cradle into which McGregor's continued interest in the law and social policy neatly fitted. His short-lived excursion in 1972 to direct the Centre for Social Studies at Oxford was not a success. Renowned, even only partial, from the centre of policy-making dispirited his energies, and when the moment came for him to take over the chairmanship of the Royal Commission on the Press - a full-time and exacting task - he was not too unhappy at leaving the Oxford enterprise, by then riven with dispute.

For all his abiding interest in family law and social policy, McGregor's academic distinction lay elsewhere. By training and inclination he was a social historian. He was, in fact, an authority on agrarian reforms of the 19th century; for a short

time after the death of his father, an Aberdonian who farmed in South Yorkshire, McGregor gave up his first academic post at Hull University and ran the farm. He had a profound and longstanding interest in all Victorian social habits, which led him to edit in 1969 a bibliography of the transactions of the National Association for Promotion of Social Science, an early forum for lawyers and social scientists that became dormant from the 1880s, when its secretary absconded with the association's funds, and which has not since been adequately replicated.

His reaching duties encompassed much else in the Victorian period, in particular the movement for women's emancipation and later liberation. He wrote, pellucidly, never more so than in his foreword to the four volumes of the *Selected Writings of Barbara Wootton*, bravely published at £40 a volume by the Macmillan Press in 1992. In that introduction he included the telling phrase, not entirely inappropriate to himself: "It is from the champions of the impossible rather than the slaves of the possible that evolution draws its creative force."

He was an engaging and persuasive lecturer, given to careful and elegant choice of language. His students admired and respected him,

though he exhibited a certain gaucherie with female students (indeed, with women generally) which was odd since he displayed so pronounced a feminist approach to social issues. This detachment meant that students found his lectures and seminars less rewarding than might otherwise have been the case. But he cared deeply for students, markedly so by comparison with some of his academic colleagues. He was discriminating in the colleagues he esteemed, and he was fiercely critical of those whose academic standards were lower than he thought they should be.

His most prominent under-rated public work was his chairmanship of the Royal Commission on the Press. The analysis in its report of Fleet Street's economic and labour relations' ills was vivid and deft. Yet, as a time when there were still a lot of trade union pressures on the newspaper industry and a Labour Government was still in power, its prescription for maintaining a free and independent press, effectively policing its own miscreants, failed to receive the political support that it deserved.

While the report was not uncritical of the Press Council, there were recommendations for giving it a continued lease of life, provided it produced a code of practice and improved its complaints procedure. By 1983 the council had largely contributed to its own eventual demise through its failure to reform itself along the lines suggested by the royal commission.

McGregor became a vigorous critic in a House of Lords debate in July 1983 on the *Swift* report - a distinguished product of the council's investigation into chequebook journalism, uncovering the gutter tactics of the *Daily Mail* - he bitterly attacked the council for its petulant attitude and self-righteous approach. Yet when the chairmanship of the council became vacant in 1988, with the retirement of Sir Zelman Cowen, McGregor was the front-runner, vigorously endorsed by the Newspaper Society. A combination of factors, mainly to do with McGregor's insistence on immediate changes in the council, deprived him of the chance to rescue a publicly discredited body.

When two years later the *Calcutt* Committee on Privacy and Related Matters recommended the disbandment of

the Press Council, and its replacement by a Press Complaints Commission devoted exclusively to adjudicating on complaints of violation of a new code formulated by national editors, the industry instinctively turned to McGregor to head the new body. His acceptance of the task, the manner in which he distanced it from the Press Council and his unwillingness initially to give the new creature a public profile, suggested a new more reticent approach to many of the royal commission's proposals.

Inevitably, this did something to tarnish an image of a person devoted to openness in public administration. His handling of the investigations of privacy of royalty - immortalised by his unfortunate phrase about journalists "dabbling their fingers in the stuff of other people's souls" at the time of the publication of the Andrew Morton book in 1992 - was unsure and ambivalent (though this was at least partly the result of his having been misled by the Palace).

When the Press Complaints Commission was critically reviewed by Sir David Calcutt in early 1993, McGregor's stewardship looked doomed. Yet the newspaper industry confirmed its support by reappointing him in June 1993 - a recognition that McGregor's approach in resisting statutory intervention still looked like being successful. He completed four years in office at the end of 1994, leaving then to less than generous thanks from an industry still awaiting the long-delayed response of the Government to the question of the press's ability to police itself. Yet the survival of self-regulation can be largely attributed to McGregor's devotion to press freedom - a cause which he also regularly championed in the House of Lords once he arrived there in 1978.

A powerful advocate of the press in the Lords - where he switched from the Labour to the Social Democrat benches in 1981 - he displayed a fertility of mind and a clarity of expression, nearly always dedicated to reducing the sum total of human misery. If there was a sacrifice involved, it centred perhaps on his having resolved to turn his back entirely on academia, a calling for which he was in so many ways exceptionally suited.

He is survived by his wife and three sons.

M. J. LATSIS

M. J. Latsis, American crime writer, died in Plymouth, New Hampshire, on November 3 aged 70. She was born in 1927.

MARY JANE LATSIS was half of the duo who wrote crime fiction under the pseudonym of Emma Lathen. With her collaborator Martha Henissart she created the banking sleuth John Putnam Thatcher, vice-president of the blue-chip Sloan Guaranty Trust and protagonist of some two dozen elegant mysteries with a Wall Street background. Where the average fictional detective has just enough financial expertise to fiddle an expense account, the urbane and competent Thatcher knew his gilts from his pork-belly futures.

Despite its clear potential as a setting for skulduggery, the world of commerce and high finance was more or less virgin territory for crime fiction when Thatcher made his debut in *Banking on Death* in 1961. There was an obvious reason for this: most authors were thoroughly baffled by business. Latsis and Henissart, however, were well placed to balance the books. Both worked in corporate finance, Latsis having trained as an economist, Henissart as a lawyer. It was to avoid offending the sensibilities of their security-conscious clients that they chose to write as Emma Lathen.

Mary Jane Latsis was born in Chicago and educated at Wellesley, where in the early 1950s she first met Henissart. The two then went their separate ways, Henissart moving to New York while Latsis worked for the CIA and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome, before returning to Wellesley to teach.

The two met again in Boston in 1960. Lamenting the lack of good mystery stories, they resolved to write one themselves. The working method they adopted was to remain unchanged for almost forty years. Together they mapped out the basics of character and plot; then, separately, they wrote alternate chapters. Latsis went first, working in pen on yellow legal pads; Henissart followed on a manual typewriter. At the end they came together again to iron out inconsistencies in a final rewrite. Each had to take care not to kill off the other's favourite characters.

The books sold well. Readers love facts, even for especially when the facts are about things they don't quite understand. In a quiet, witty, civilised way, the intricate commercial and legal plots of Emma Lathen prepared the ground for those densely detailed blockbusters that now make fortunes for such writers as John Grisham.

The Emma Lathen ruse proved something of a handicap when it came to giving interviews or otherwise promoting the books, but the pseudonymous authors were soon doing well enough to give up their jobs. Eventually their identities became known, though they continued to shun the limelight. Their books appeared at the rate of almost one a year. Some, less successful than the Thatcher tales, were written under the pseudonym R. B. Dominic, and featured an Ohio congressman turned detective.

The two women bought a house together in New Hampshire, where they spent part of each year writing and walking in the mountains. Sometimes mistaken for sisters, they enjoyed their solitude. Henissart tended off a succession of suitors, while Latsis, not keen on marriage, pursued a 40-year romance with an investment consultant called Walter Frank. He was not, she insisted, the model for John Putnam Thatcher.

A new Thatcher story, *Shark Out of Water*, was ready for publication at the time of Latsis's death.

THE RIGHT REV DOUGLAS FEAVER

The Right Rev Douglas Feaver, former Bishop of Peterborough, died on November 9 aged 83. He was born on May 22, 1914.

ONCE famously described as "the rudest man in the Church of England", Douglas Feaver was a priest of firm traditional views, acerbically expressed. He believed the Authorised Version to be "the one memo-

table version of the Bible" and was a vigorous defender of the Book of Common Prayer, advising those tempted by the Alternative Service to "bite it and spit it out". He resisted changes to the system of ecclesiastical appointments. He would demand that the altar be restored to its traditional position before agreeing to celebrate in a church where some new arrangement had

been adopted. He opposed the ordination of women, and described women members of the General Synod as having "seething bosoms but nothing above". He scorned the church administration and rejoiced in retirement that he would never have to attend another General Synod, a body he accused in a letter to *The Times* of "that conceit which corrupts conscience".

Feaver's forthright manner lent the brute force of prejudice to views which were deeply considered and sincerely felt. He seemed happy to play up to his colourful public image, even publishing in retirement a collection of his choicest "Feaverisms" under the title *Purple Feaver* (1985). Yet he was by no means the simple ogre he sometimes appeared. There was quiet

kindness behind the brutish facade. That 1985 anthology of the bishop's barbs was published, tongue-in-cheek, to raise funds for the Church of England Children's Society; and the Dean of Westminster, Eric Abbott, who so memorably noted Feaver's rudeness, made a point of going on to say that "he doesn't know it and he doesn't mean it".

Although he could alarm the timid, Feaver took a serious and supportive interest in the welfare and development of younger clergy in his charge. He was a briskly effective administrator, never afraid to leave well alone. He performed his pastoral duties with commitment and compassion. He was a pithy, persuasive preacher, and in private an engaging raconteur. He was liked and admired by those who knew him best.

Nor was his opposition to change entirely unrelenting. Rather he believed that "newness consists in renewal, not in novelty, and experiment must go hand in hand with experience". His objection to the General Synod was that he thought it determined "to demolish, little by little, the traditions, dignities and duties of the Church of England".

Douglas Russell Feaver was



born in Bristol. He was educated at Bristol Grammar School and at Keble College, Oxford, where he won a double first in modern history and theology. He trained for the ministry at Wells Theological College, then spent 20 years at St Albans Cathedral, first as curate, then, from the age of just 32, as canon and sub-dean. He served as a chaplain in the RAF Volunteer Reserve in the Second World War. During his time at St Albans he built a reputation as a lucid and conscientious book reviewer for the *Church Times*. His obvious intellectual strengths went some way to

compensate for his seemingly deliberate lack of social graces, and in 1938 he was appointed vicar of St Mary's, Nottingham, an appointment which brought with it an honorary canonry of Southwell Minster and the duties of rural dean of Nottingham. Though his relations with the liberal Bishop of Southwell, F.R. Barry, who appointed him, were sometimes strained, it was Feaver's 14 years in Nottingham that prepared the ground for his subsequent preferment.

He was appointed to the see of Peterborough in 1972, succeeding the Anglo-Catholic Cyril Eastaugh, whose opposition to the proposals for Anglican-Methodist unity he shared. For the next 12 years he showed himself to be an outspoken champion of diocesan and parochial independence against the centralising tendencies of the church bureaucracy. He retired, rather unwillingly, in 1984, first to Cambridge, then Somerset.

Douglas Feaver's first wife, Katharine Stubbs, whom he married in 1939, died in 1987. In 1988 he married Clare Harvey, who survives him together with a son, who is the art critic of *The Observer*, and two daughters of his first marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE
20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000, 1005, 1010, 1015, 1020, 1025, 1030, 1035, 1040, 1045, 1050, 1055, 1060, 1065, 1070, 1075, 1080, 1085, 1090, 1095, 1100, 1105, 1110, 1115, 1120, 1125, 1130, 1135, 1140, 1145, 1150, 1155, 1160, 1165, 1170, 1175, 1180, 1185, 1190, 1195, 1200, 1205, 1210, 1215, 1220, 1225, 1230, 1235, 1240, 1245, 1250, 1255, 1260, 1265, 1270, 1275, 1280, 1285, 1290, 1295, 1300, 1305, 1310, 1315, 1320, 1325, 1330, 1335, 1340, 1345, 1350, 1355, 1360, 1365, 1370, 1375, 1380, 1385, 1390, 1395, 1400, 1405, 1410, 1415, 1420, 1425, 1430, 1435, 1440, 1445, 1450, 1455, 1460, 1465, 1470, 1475, 1480, 1485, 1490, 1495, 1500, 1505, 1510, 1515, 1520, 1525, 1530, 1535, 1540, 1545, 1550, 1555, 1560, 1565, 1570, 1575, 1580, 1585, 1590, 1595, 1600, 1605, 1610, 1615, 1620, 1625, 1630, 1635, 1640, 1645, 1650, 1655, 1660, 1665, 1670, 1675, 1680, 1685, 1690, 1695, 1700, 1705, 1710, 1715, 1720, 1725, 1730, 1735, 1740, 1745, 1750, 1755, 1760, 1765, 1770, 1775, 1780, 1785, 1790, 1795, 1800, 1805, 1810, 1815, 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, 2050, 2055, 2060, 2065, 2070, 2075, 2080, 2085, 2090, 2095, 2100, 2105, 2110, 2115, 2120, 2125, 2130, 2135, 2140, 2145, 2150, 2155, 2160, 2165, 2170, 2175, 2180, 2185, 2190, 2195, 2200, 2205, 2210, 2215, 2220, 2225, 2230, 2235, 2240, 2245, 2250, 2255, 2260, 2265, 2270, 2275, 2280, 2285, 2290, 2295, 2300, 2305, 2310, 2315, 2320, 2325, 2330, 2335, 2340, 2345, 2350, 2355, 2360, 2365, 2370, 2375, 2380, 2385, 2390, 2395, 2400, 2405, 2410, 2415, 2420, 2425, 2430, 2435, 2440, 2445, 2450, 2455, 2460, 2465, 2470, 2475, 2480, 2485, 2490, 2495, 2500, 2505, 2510, 2515, 2520, 2525, 2530, 2535, 2540, 2545, 2550, 2555, 2560, 2565, 2570, 2575, 2580, 2585, 2590, 2595, 2600, 2605, 2610, 2615, 2620, 2625, 2630, 2635, 2640, 2645, 2650, 2655, 2660, 2665, 2670, 2675, 2680, 2685, 2690, 2695, 2700, 2705, 2710, 2715, 2720, 2725, 2730, 2735, 2740, 2745, 2750, 2755, 2760, 2765, 2770, 2775, 2780, 2785, 2790, 2795, 2800, 2805, 2810, 2815, 2820, 2825, 2830, 2835, 2840, 2845, 2850, 2855, 2860, 2865, 2870, 2875, 2880, 2885, 2890, 2895, 2900, 2905, 2910, 2915, 2920, 2925, 2930, 2935, 2940, 2945, 2950, 2955, 2960, 2965, 2970, 2975, 2980, 2985, 2990, 2995, 3000, 3005, 3010, 3015, 3020, 3025, 3030, 3035, 3040, 3045, 3050, 3055, 3060, 3065, 3070, 3075, 3080, 3085, 3090, 3095, 3100, 3105, 3110, 3115, 3120, 3125, 3130, 3135, 3140, 3145, 3150, 3155, 3160, 3165, 3170, 3175, 3180, 3185, 3190, 3195, 3200, 3205, 3210, 3215, 3220, 3225, 3230, 3235, 3240, 3245, 3250, 3255, 3260, 3265, 3270, 3275, 3280, 3285, 3290, 3295, 3300, 3305, 3310, 3315, 3320, 3325, 3330, 3335, 3340, 3345, 3350, 3355, 3360, 3365, 3370, 3375, 3380, 3385, 3390, 3395, 3400, 3405, 3410, 3415, 3420, 3425, 3430, 3435, 3440, 3445, 3450, 3455, 3460, 3465, 3470, 3475, 3480, 3485, 3490, 3495, 3500, 3505, 3510, 3515, 3520, 3525, 3530, 3535, 3540, 3545, 3550, 3555, 3560, 3565, 3570, 3575, 3580, 3585, 3590, 3595, 3600, 3605, 3610, 3615, 3620, 3625, 3630, 3635, 3640, 3645, 3650, 3655, 3660, 3665, 3670, 3675, 3680, 3685, 3690, 3695, 3700, 3705, 3710, 3715, 3720, 3725, 3730, 3735, 3740, 3745, 3750, 3755, 3760, 3765, 3770, 3775, 3780, 3785, 3790, 3795, 3800, 3805, 3810, 3815, 3820, 3825, 3830, 3835, 3840, 3845, 3850, 3855, 3860, 3865, 3870, 3875, 3880, 3885, 3890, 3895, 3900, 3905, 3910, 3915, 3920, 3925, 3930, 3935, 3940, 3945, 3950, 3955, 3960, 3965, 3970, 3975, 3980, 3985, 3990, 3995, 4000, 4005, 40

NEWS

Pledge to review political funding

A top-to-bottom reform of the way Britain's political parties are funded was promised by the Government as it struggled to wipe away the taint of sleaze surrounding its decision to exempt motor racing from any tobacco advertising ban.

After Labour was forced to admit that it had received £1 million from the Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone, the Government hastened its review of political funding and hinted that the law would be changed to ensure that all such handouts were disclosed in future. Pages 1, 8, 23

Schumacher 'leniency' condemned

Two British former world motor-racing champions condemned the lenient punishment given to Michael Schumacher, of Germany, for deliberately ramming Jacques Villeneuve during the European Grand Prix last month. Pages 1, 8, 52

Teachers to hit back

Teachers have been advised by their union to "bash and dash" when cornered by an aggressive pupil or parent by aiming for the knee, solar plexus, elbow or little finger. Page 1

Au pair's gratitude

The British au pair Louise Woodward broke her silence to thank the judge who freed her and to mourn the baby she was convicted of killing. She hoped that "scientific evidence convinces the Epping family that I did their son no harm". Pages 1, 5

Portillo pitches in

Michael Portillo cast himself in the unlikely role of an amateur politician helping out an old friend when he went campaigning in Winchester. Page 2

Star can't see film

Mischa Barton, 11, the little star of *Lawn Dogs* has been told that she will not be allowed to watch the film since the censors have given it a 15-certificate. Page 3

Peace priority

Mary McAleese was sworn in as the eighth President of Ireland and pledged to use her term to bring peace to Ulster. Page 6

Teenager tortured

Teenager Kelly Bates was systematically tortured by her 49-year-old boyfriend for up to four weeks before she was murdered, a court was told. Page 7

Soggy sandwiches spark free for all

An evening to cement international friendships ended with police being called after a fight broke out over food. The town of Bridgewater, Somerset, twinned with Homburg, Germany, and Uherske Hradiste, Czech Republic, was entertaining its guests in separate rooms. The battle broke out when one side got chicken and salami and the other, soggy sandwiches. Page 1



Soloists Maxim Vengerov, left, and Yuri Bashmet rehearse for a concert tonight at the Royal Festival Hall in the presence of the Queen. The concert, originally planned as a gala performance to be attended by Diana, the Princess of Wales, is to be dedicated to her memory.

Business

Demerger: Allied Donaco

The Ballantine's Scotch to Big Steak Pubs group, held out the prospect of an eventual demerger, possibly in conjunction with a link-up with a drinks rival. Page 27

Levitt: Roger Levitt is to seek exemption

Levitt: Roger Levitt is to seek exemption from the DTI over the "shambles" caused by a collapsed bid to extrajude him from the US. Page 27

Rolls Royce warning: BMW

Rolls Royce warning: BMW threatened to cancel an agreement to supply engines to the new Rolls-Royce if Mayflower Corporation succeeded with a hostile bid for Vickers. Page 27

Meritage: The FTSE 100 fell 13.1

Meritage: The FTSE 100 fell 13.1 points to close at 4937.7. Sterling rose to 103.8 after a rise to \$1.7042 and to DM2.9169. Page 30

Teachers: Greg Russel failed

Teachers: Greg Russel failed to capitalise on an encouraging start against Patrick Rafter and went down in three sets in his opening match of the ATP Tour world championship. Page 52

Football: Tony Adams, the Arsenal

Football: Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender, will not play for six weeks because of an ankle injury, thereby ruling him out of the game against Cameroon. Page 46

Playoff union: Within four days

Playoff union: Within four days England's bright new squad will be introduced to the harsh realities of the international game. Page 49

Crisis: Chris Adams won his

Crisis: Chris Adams won his campaign to become a free agent during a hearing at Lord's at which it was decided that Derbyshire had misinterpreted the regulations. Page 46

Close call: Chris Hanman's play

Close call: Chris Hanman's play *Shining Souls* has arrived at the Old Vic, but Benedict Nightingale advises sitting at the front to appreciate its charms. Page 40

Musical mayhem: As the American

Musical mayhem: As the American show *Chicago* opens in London with its sordid theme of murder, Richard Morrison looks at the musicals that purvey lurid material. Page 41

Merry dance: Will English National

Merry dance: Will English National Ballet's Christmas production of *The Nutcracker* finally bring its artistic director, Derek Deane, plaudits? Page 41

Rising star: At 24, Casper Berry

Rising star: At 24, Casper Berry has already been an actor and a commercial director, and now he has written the new British action movie, *Downside*. Page 41

Tomorrow

IN THE TIMES

FILMS

Impressive or grotesque? *G.I. Jane*, a star vehicle for Demi Moore, puzzles Geoff Brown

BOOKS

The India of Lawrence James entrances Jan Morris; Dr Thomas Stuttaford on physicians

Sorry, boys: Once women felt

Sorry, boys: Once women felt exploited by advertisers. Now, says the ASA, "girl power" is being exploited by the industry to demean men. Page 20

Nigella Lawson: For Louise, we

Nigella Lawson: For Louise, we demanded demerol for the boys who killed James Bulger, we demand no mercy. In both cases there is a child's death. Page 20

Political sacrifices: "What hell it

Political sacrifices: "What hell it must be for Tessa Jowell and her husband, David Mills," says Mary Ann Sieghart. "After all, husbands are not used to making sacrifices for their wives' careers." Page 21

Power of the past: The footprints of

Power of the past: The footprints of Christianity can still be found all over modern Britain. Page 21

New skills: Good shorthand is no

New skills: Good shorthand is no longer enough: today's secretary must keep up with the latest technology. Page 39

Settle stations: Plans for one of

Settle stations: Plans for one of Britain's finest naval landmarks, a handsome complex of buildings in the West Country, have spurred conservationists into backing a rival scheme. Page 43

Democracy requires a strong and

Democracy requires a strong and credible opposition, otherwise the Government becomes too sure of itself and even authoritarian. — *Corriere della Sera*

Preview: The competition for school places begins at three. *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm) Review: Matthew Bond on an angry voice for the disabled. Pages 50, 51

A price on politics

There is much that is wrong with state funding in principle. The practical problems are no less troublesome. Page 23

Fast track failure

If it looks like a duck, talks like a duck, and walks like a duck then it is a duck. If it hobbles horrendously then it is a lame duck. A mere twelve months after his re-election, President Clinton's authority at home has been severely shaken. Page 23

Culture at a price

In an ideal world, all public museums would be free. But the world, as Labour has quickly discovered, is far from ideal. Page 23

SIMON JENKINS

It beggars belief that Labour's prophets of "moralism" can see bombing as a sensible way out of this impasse. Yet so it seems. Both Mr Blair and his Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, are seasoned supporters of aerial bombardment. Page 22

ALAN COREN

Given the limitless ingenuity of Americans, the box could well contain, say, a dozen tap-dancing bagels, or an angel cake with a PhD in quantum mechanics. Page 22

SIMON BARNES

Looking at Formula One, we have a bravura display of sporting sleight of hand. More than that, a glorious buffet supper of money corrupting and big money corrupting absolutely. Page 22

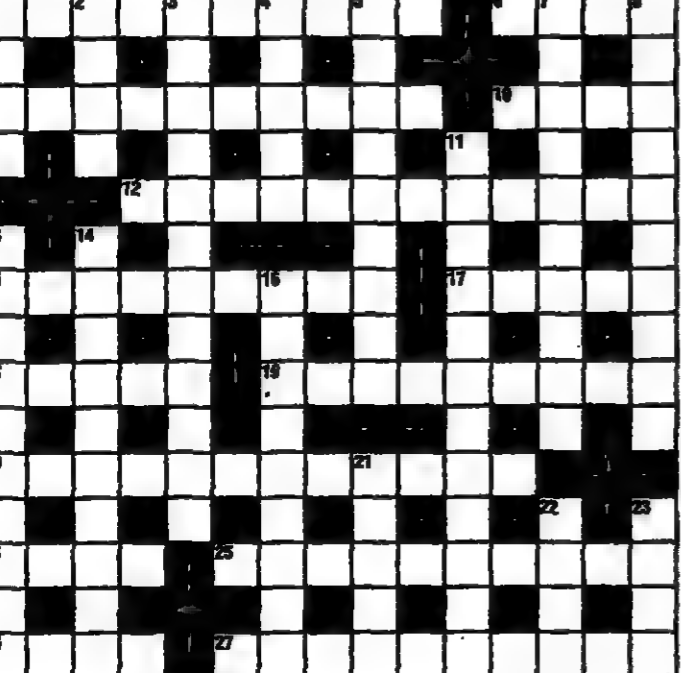
Lord McAlvay of Dumfriesshire

former chairman of the Press Complaints Commission: *The Right Rev Douglas Foweraker, Bishop of Peterborough, 1972-84; M.J. Latham, American crime writer.* Page 25

Tory divide and rule in Europe

charities and pub lottery game; Woodward verdict; opera funding; animal testing; school library service. Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,635



- ACROSS
- 1 Race boldly organised as contest between neighbours (5,5).
 - 6 Fell for composer dropping in (4).
 - 9 Prayers best revised without a lot of elders (10).
 - 10 Just entertainment (4).
 - 12 British skater's skill needed in international meetings? (12).
 - 15 The kind of farm border kids need (5-4).
 - 17 Singer's theme (5).
 - 18 Lower needing ring puts capital up (5).
 - 19 Punishing run in meandering setting (9).
 - 20 So tamed etc., I'd reformed? (12).
 - 24 Common grub found in wheat stalks (4).
- DOWN
- 1 Sound to be left open for poets (4).
 - 2 Company giving credits points (4).
 - 3 One has nobody up in the ring with right punch, say (7,5).
 - 4 Rotten school report (5).
 - 5 Regularly tapped in lobby, one shows the pressure (9).
 - 7 Parts nobody believes in (10).
 - 8 A few words in support of the standard interpretation (10).
 - 11 Helpful number (12).
 - 13 Cooking dinner, I get this part of it (10).
 - 14 What gives Air Force, say, direction and power? (10).
 - 16 Haberdasher abroad better qualified? (9).
 - 21 Turn aside right after welcome (5).
 - 22 Size of type showing abnormal appetite (4).
 - 23 Refuse in secluded part of house an unknown quantity (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,634

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General: starting line and cold

with fog patches and frost away from southern and western coasts. Heavy central and eastern areas will stay dry with a fair amount of sunshine but showers likely in the west and bordering the Channel. Tonight: dry with clear spells, perhaps frost in rural areas, mist and fog in places.

London, E Anglia, E Midlands, E

England, NE England: any early fog will clear to leave some sunshine and occasional showers. Light southwest wind. Max 11C (52F)

SE England, Central S England,

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: early fog will clear to leave some sunshine and occasional showers, mainly on coast and hills. Light west wind. Max 11C (52F)

W Midlands, N Wales, NW

England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England: a few heavy showers with sunny spells. Light northwest wind. Max 10C (50F)

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee,

Aberdeen, Moray Firth: sunny spells and a few showers. Moderate southwest wind. Max 10C (50F)

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:

sunshine and showers. Moderate northwest wind. Max 10C (50F)

Central Highlands, NE Scotland,

NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: occasional bright spells, frequent showers. Moderate to fresh south to southwest wind. Max 10C (50F)

Northern Ireland, Irish Republic:

sunny spells and showers, mainly in the west. Moderate northwest wind. Max 11C (52F)

Outlook: after early fog and frost

sunshine, mainly dry with some sunnier late rain in the southwest. Friday will be wet in most of England and Wales, clearing up in the afternoon; elsewhere dry with sunny spells.



Low O will move slowly north with little change. Low M will move southeast, filling slightly. Low A will move east then southeast, with little change in pressure.



Today's weather: AM, HT, PM, HT, PM, HT. AM, HT, PM, HT, PM, HT.

| TO DAY | AM | HT | PM | HT | PM | HT |
|---------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| London Bridge | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| London | 11.30 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |

Full moon November 14

Full moon November 14

Full moon November 14

Full moon November 14

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION
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TODAY

BUSINESS

Escaping from high, long-term unemployment
PAGE 31

HOMES

Conservations sail into action over naval yard
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SPORT

Rafter's revival brings the house down on Rusedski
PAGES 47-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12 1997

Levitt set to seek big payout from DTI in US



Levitt restricted

BY JON ASHWORTH
ROGER LEVITT, the disgraced financial services salesman, is set to sue the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for "exemplary damages" over its bungled attempt to seek his extradition from America.

Mr Levitt, who spent 12 days in custody before his release on \$1 million (£588,000) bail, and now works in New York as a boxing promoter, will seek compensation for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, lost business opportunities, damage to his reputation, and stress and anxiety caused to him and his family. He is considering pursuing the claim in America, where juries incline towards multi-million dollar payouts.

Lord Justice Phillips, sitting with Mr Justice Garland at the High Court yesterday, expressed concern at the handling of the case. He indicated that it was in the public interest that the DTI should give the court a formal explanation. After hearing accusations that judges in both New York and London were misled by the DTI, the judge said: "It seems to me the public interest requires some investigation."

The DTI announced in Parliament on Monday that it was abandoning its ten-month fight to bring Mr Levitt back to the UK. He is accused of breaking a director's ban — imposed after the £34 million collapse of his company, The Levitt Group — and of furnishing false information to DTI inspectors. Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, told Parliament that the DTI had sought advice from independent counsel before initiating extradition proceedings.

The DTI later admitted that the grounds for Mr Levitt's arrest were not covered by the extradition treaty. It has been accused of misleading courts in its eagerness to seek Mr Levitt's return. The DTI's latest defence — that it sought outside advice — was called into question at the High Court yesterday. Alun Jones, QC, for Mr Levitt, said a DTI barrister, Katherine Shrimplin, was responsible for a series of errors in her deposition to US authorities. She had made "just about every possible error in law that can be made in extradition proceedings" involving a friendly foreign state.

Comment, page 29

Domecq holds out prospect of demerger

ALLIED DOMECQ, the Ballantine's Scotch to Big Steak Pubs group, yesterday held out the prospect of an eventual demerger, possibly in conjunction with a link-up with a major drinks rival.

BY DOMINIC WALSH

mechanism" if Allied Domecq decided the best way to fight Diageo would be to join forces with a rival. Seagram and Pernod Ricard have been mooted as potential partners although Mr Hales said local alliances were also possible. "Anybody can do a deal. But people rush in and repent at their leisure," he said. "We will get the right one in due course."



Sir Christopher Hogg reported a 6 per cent rise in profits

Homeowners face higher mortgage bills

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND ANNE ASHWORTH

MILLIONS of homeowners are facing higher mortgage bills after the Abbey National became the first big lender to raise its loan rate in response to last week's interest rate increase. Economists also said yesterday that homeowners could face further loan rate increases in the next few months after inflation unexpectedly rose in October.

also edged further above the Government's 2.5 per cent target level to 2.8 per cent. A sharp rise in seasonal food costs was blamed for most of the rise. Prices in the household goods and services sector also rose, pushing the overall measure of service sector inflation to 3.1 per cent from 2.9 per cent in September.

But yesterday it was back on the agenda as Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, acknowledged that the forthcoming merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan would heighten competition in the drinks sector, making further consolidation inevitable.

Sir Christopher said: "Our prime intention is to develop the group's two principal businesses to be leaders in their respective industries." He added: "This intention is, of course, not inconsistent with demerger. But we would have to be satisfied that the inevitable costs and disruption associated with demerger would be outweighed by the estimated benefits in terms of value to shareholders. It's an idea whose time has not yet come and may not come."

Commentary 29
hopes sent shares in Allied Domecq 27p higher to 508p — a rise of almost 6 per cent — as brokers also reacted positively to the group's full-year results.

The bulk of investment went into the Fintin and Mr Q's brands and its Big Steak Pub/Wacky Warehouse family concept. Franchising profits from its Baskin-Robbins and Dunkin' Donuts stores increased 9 per cent.

Earnings per share increased 18 per cent to 39.1p. A final dividend of 15.0p, to be paid as a foreign income dividend on February 20, makes 24.44p (23.59p).

BMW gives contract warning to Mayflower

BY ADAM JONES

engines a year. However, BMW said yesterday: "In the event that Mayflower acquired control of Rolls-Royce, BMW would be minded to terminate the arrangements with Rolls-Royce."

BMW, the German car manufacturer, yesterday threatened to cancel an agreement to supply engines to the new Rolls-Royce if Mayflower Corporation succeeded with a hostile bid for Vickers, the luxury carmaker's parent.

Barclays poised to complete BZW deal

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

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BMW, the German car manufacturer, yesterday threatened to cancel an agreement to supply engines to the new Rolls-Royce if Mayflower Corporation succeeded with a hostile bid for Vickers, the luxury carmaker's parent.

Vickers was trying to sell Rolls-Royce Motors, with BMW thought to be the most likely buyer, when Mayflower was forced to admit last week that it might bid for the whole group.

BMW fought tooth and nail with Daimler-Benz to win the Rolls engine contract, a prestigious deal that could involve the supply of up to 1,800

BARCLAYS is on the verge of announcing the sale of BZW's equities and advisory businesses to Credit Suisse First Boston, the Swiss-owned investment bank.

CSFB was given a week to clinch the deal last Tuesday by Martin Taylor, the Barclays chief executive, and the City believes the final arrangements could be disclosed as early as today.

Firms risk exclusion by FSA watchdog



DOZENS of investment firms could face exclusion from the Financial Services Authority, the new super-watchdog launched last month by Gordon Brown.

The FSA has reserved the right to ask companies to re-apply for authorisation as part of a vetting process to ensure that members of the new body meet its standards of regulation.

Although the vast majority of the 5,000-plus investment firms will be given automatic entry to the FSA, a few of

problem cases may be subjected to rigorous scrutiny. Phillip Thorpe, joint managing director of the FSA, said: "The ability to require a firm to reapply for authorisation is not one which the FSA anticipates having to use with a high degree of frequency."

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

still regulated by Fimbra, although the watchdog was expected to be wound up soon after establishment of the FSA three years ago.

A PIA spokeswoman said that some of the firms remain with Fimbra because of outstanding disciplinary matters. Others are appealing against the rejection of their membership applications to the PIA. "We expect this business to be finished by 1999," she said.

Hundreds of other small firms are regulated by professional bodies, such as the Insurance Brokers Registration Council, whose fate remains unclear. IBRC members can carry out financial services business without PIA authorisation if it is less than 50 per cent of their total business.

Howard Davies, the FSA's chairman, has made clear that it will be the only body to regulate the sale of financial services products. Lawyers and accountants have been told that they will have to be directly regulated by the FSA if they want to continue financial services work.

CBI casts doubts on 'golden rule' to control finance

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday cast doubt on Gordon Brown's "golden rule" as the Government's target for controlling public finances.

The CBI urged the Government to shift towards a new measure of fiscal control, but called on ministers to stick to a firm ceiling on public spending.

Confederation leaders announced their views on public finances before the conclusions of the Government's spending review and the outline Green Budget this month. The CBI said that uncertain-

ties surrounded the Chancellor's pledge that over the economic cycle the Government would only borrow to invest, and not to fund current expenditure. This included the inability to distinguish cash-generating investments from those which were not, and whether they were defined net or gross of depreciation.

The CBI said: "Taking all these uncertainties into account, it does not seem right to make a switch to the 'golden rule' as our main target."

The CBI also recommended that the Government put

greater emphasis on the general government financial deficit rather than the public sector borrowing requirement as the means of fiscal control. As well as being in line with international standards, the move would allow greater commercial freedom to public corporations operating in competitive markets.

CBI leaders said that there was still a "strong case" for privatising such bodies, which include the Post Office, but if privatisation was to be ruled out, then commercial freedom in the public sector, and in particular the ability to borrow to invest, would be a "step in the right direction".

Leaders of the CBI urged the Government to maintain firm control on public spending, with a clear upper limit on expenditure financed by taxes and government borrowing of 40 per cent of GDP.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said: "The Government faces difficult choices as it seeks to balance the growing demand for public services with the need to keep down public borrowing and tax rises."

Ministers should consider extending new ways of paying for services, including the Private Finance Initiative and charging, to allow funding for education and transport to rise in real terms.



Keith Stott, chief executive of WFT Foods, which raised pre-tax profits from £701,000 to £1.64 million in the six months to September 30 on sales up from £12 million to £18 million. The interim dividend is held at 0.50p a share out of earnings up from 0.95p to 1.41p. The board is confident of maintaining the performance in the second half.

Second payment for BCCI depositors

By Jon Ashworth

DEPOSITORS in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) are set to receive a second dividend of up to 15.5 per cent next summer, it was disclosed yesterday.

Georges Baden, one of the two Luxembourg liquidators of BCCI, told a meeting of depositors at Westminster that the money would be paid in June 1998, funds allowing. Depositors received an initial 24.5 per cent last December, and had been told to expect a further payout of at least 10 per cent.

Thousands of depositors lost their savings when BCCI was shut by the Bank of England in July 1991. Total debts came to £6 billion, and progress towards compensating savers has been slow. Deloitte & Touche, the English liquidator of BCCI, has been criticised over the level of fees paid.

Keith Vaz, the Labour MP for Leicester East, hosted yesterday's meeting of the Depositors' Protection Association (DPA), whose members between them have claims of more than £625 million. About 60 members attended. Adil Elias, the DPA chairman, described BCCI depositors as "the forgotten victims", and called on the Bank of England to own up to regulatory failings in monitoring BCCI.

Deloitte & Touche had been seeking £550 million plus interest in damages from the Bank of England in connection with alleged negligence in its regulation and licensing of BCCI, but the claim was struck out in the High Court. In a ruling in May, Mr Justice Clarke ruled that the Bank could not be held liable for "misfeasance" — conduct worse than negligent — in carrying out its duties as a regulator of BCCI. An appeal is to be heard by July 1998.

Deutsche Telekom share sale on hold

GERMANY has postponed the sale of DM8 billion (£4.7 billion) worth of shares in Deutsche Telekom until next year. The sale of DM2 billion worth of the shares to the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, will, however, go ahead this year under new budget plans announced yesterday by Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister. About DM23 billion of stock will now be sold during 1998 under the new budget plans.

The adjustments to the share sale plans follow fresh calculations of expected tax revenues for 1997 and 1998. The 1997 tax forecast has been cut by DM6.7 billion. The shortfall will be made up by the postponement of repayments to the fund for old East German debts, a reduction in unemployment benefits, and restrictions on government spending. The fresh calculations will leave Germany's federal budget at DM57 billion for 1998, slightly down from the previous estimate of DM57.8 billion in the draft budget.

Eagle Star jobs to go

EAGLE STAR, part of the financial services arm of BAT Industries, which is to merge next year with Zurich Life, is dispersing its direct sales force with the potential loss of 300 jobs. The company said that the reorganisation had nothing to do with the impending merger and that it had decided to concentrate on selling products through independent financial advisers and over the telephone. The move is evidence of a growing trend in insurance away from direct sales agents.

Call for insurer clarity

INSURANCE companies have been urged to come clean over what cover they will provide if the "millennium time bomb" goes off. The call, by the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers, follows fears that some policies may have exclusion clauses if computer systems crash because they fail to recognise the year 2000. The association said insurance companies should provide a clear statement on their position to policyholders.

Bid talks lift Menvier

SHARES in Menvier-Swain, the emergency lighting and security group, rose 49p to 254p as the group revealed that it was in talks with a third party which may result in an offer for the company. At yesterday's closing price the group is worth £132 million on the stock market. The shares reached a high of 338p in the early part of 1997 before falling to the 200p mark after a profits warning. The company took over Scantronic two years ago.

Pennzoil bid warning

UNION Pacific Resources Group said it will call off its \$6.4 billion offer for Pennzoil unless the oil company enters "good faith" merger discussions. Jack Messman, Union Pacific chief executive, said that because the value of Pennzoil's international assets appeared "to have eroded sharply" it was not in the best interests of Union Pacific shareholders to continue to pursue the offer on an unsolicited basis for an indeterminate period.

Trust value surges

GROWTH in Latin American economies helped Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets Investment Trust to increase net asset value to 157.1p a share from 112.6p in the year to September 30. This was well ahead of its benchmark, the IFC Global Total Return Composite Index. The shares, which peaked at 1304p in August, closed at 1034p yesterday. Turbulent Asian markets, where the trust has a 17.8 per cent weighting, have eroded the share price.

Cranswick lifts profits

CRANSWICK, the pet, agribusiness and food group, lifted pre-tax profits 15 per cent to £2.1 million in the half-year to September 30. Earnings rose 16 per cent to 10.2p a share and the interim dividend rises 8 per cent to 3.25p. Jim Bloom, the chairman, said there had been a significant increase in food manufacturing sales of retail packing, gourmet sausages and ham. Turnover fell to £75.1 million from £79.1 million after a reduction in raw material costs.

Viewers put price on value of digital TV

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

NEARLY half the UK population would be interested in buying a digital television box to increase their choice of viewing — but only at the right price.

A new survey, by Taylor Nelson AGB Research, suggests that the price of the equipment is an important key to the development of services with up to 200 channels of television. The most popular price for the

"blackbox" decoder among the public is less than £100, although there are those, possibly heavy TV viewers, who are prepared to go up to £150. Above £200 — the likely subsidised retail price — consumer interest declines rapidly.

Almost two thirds are aware of digital television, 20 per cent know that it will mean more channels, and 37 per cent better picture and sound.

"...best little PC."

—Byrs, 4/97, P. Woyner

"Gorgeous."

—What Video & TV, 6/97, B. Fox

"...innovations galore..."

—Mobile Computing, 12/96, M. Campanelli

"Damn fast."

—The Paperless Office, 2/97, N. Ballard

"...better than sex!"

—Modern Living, 7/97, N. Lam



(Okay, so we made the last one up.)

PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

It's hard to top all the great things people are saying about Velo, the handheld PC. CINE Player, the best of the Windows CE Platform. Fast and expandable. Very convenient and built-in modem for you to e-mail and surf the Web instantly making it the only one that's completely ready out of the box. See PC Magazine. For the whole truth on Velo, visit us at www.veilo.com. RUN WINDOWS ANYWHERE.

CURRENCY RATES

| | Bank of England | Bank of America |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Australia \$ | 0.65 | 0.65 |
| Austria Sch | 13.76 | 13.76 |
| Belgium Fr | 66.64 | 66.64 |
| Canada C | 0.67 | 0.67 |
| Cyprus Cyp | 0.80 | 0.80 |
| Denmark Kr | 11.48 | 11.48 |
| Finland Mk | 5.94 | 5.94 |
| France Fr | 6.55 | 6.55 |
| Germany Dr | 1.93 | 1.93 |
| Greece Dr | 340.75 | 340.75 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 7.76 | 7.76 |
| Ireland P | 0.78 | 0.78 |
| Israel Sh | 1.80 | 1.80 |
| Italy Lit | 2036 | 2036 |
| Japan Yen | 160.96 | 160.96 |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.20 | 2.20 |
| New Zealand \$ | 1.36 | 1.36 |
| Norway Kr | 136.48 | 136.48 |
| Portugal Esc | 200.48 | 200.48 |
| Spain Ptas | 166.64 | 166.64 |
| Sweden Kr | 13.76 | 13.76 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Turkey Lira | 1.80 | 1.80 |
| USA \$ | 1.53 | 1.53 |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

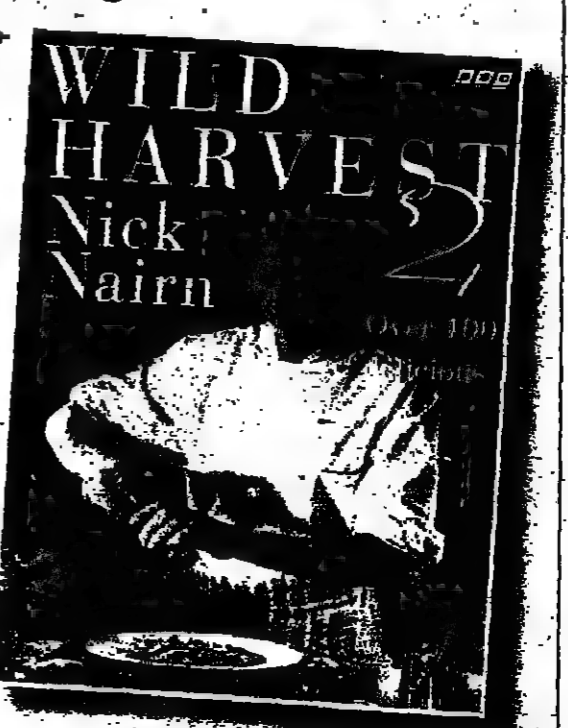
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Today's choice is *Wild Harvest* (£11.99 instead of £15.99) by Ready Steady Cook chef, Nick Nairn. Nairn takes you on a gastronomic tour of Scotland using basic techniques to produce food that is simple yet fun to prepare.

You can see him and a host of celebrity chefs, demonstrating live at this year's BBC Good Food Show between November 26-30 at the NEC, Birmingham. To book tickets, call the show hotline on 0121 767 4000 quoting NTI for your Times discount. (Weekday £8.10, weekend £9.10).



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CHANGING TIMES

ROUNDUP

The Telekom sale on hold

The sale of Deutsche Telekom (DT) to the British Telecom (BT) consortium has been put on hold. The sale was announced last week, but the DT board has now decided to postpone the sale until after the general election in May 1998. The sale was valued at £100 billion, but the DT board has now decided to postpone the sale until after the general election in May 1998.

Star jobs to go

The financial services arm of BT is to merge next year with Zurich Life. The merger will result in the loss of 300 jobs. The merger will result in the loss of 300 jobs.

Insurer clarity

Insurance companies have been urged to come clean about the "millennium time bomb" by the Association of Insurers. The Association of Insurers has urged insurance companies to come clean about the "millennium time bomb".

Oil bid warning

The oil industry has issued a warning to the government. The oil industry has issued a warning to the government about the impact of the oil price on the economy.

Value surges

The value of the UK stock market has surged. The value of the UK stock market has surged, with the FTSE 100 index rising by over 100 points.

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Black lifts profits

The profits of the UK stock market have risen. The profits of the UK stock market have risen, with the FTSE 100 index rising by over 100 points.

on BBC book

The BBC has announced a new book. The BBC has announced a new book, which will be broadcast on the radio.

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Sir Christopher utters the D-word



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Baskin-Robbins ice-cream and Ballantine's whisky could be the makings of an interesting evening — although a tub full of Häagen-Dazs might hint of even more excitement ahead. But the arguments for keeping ice-cream and whisky under the same corporate roof have never been entirely convincing. Now Sir Christopher Hogg appears to be accepting that there is little mutual benefit to be gained from running food and spirits firms in a single group.

When he took over as chairman of the disgraced Allied Domecq, the City had hoped that Sir Christopher might have demerger on his mind, along with a speedy exit and farewell to the group's chief executive. But Sir Christopher held fire on both counts, preferring to concentrate on tidying up the business and instigating some of the things only new boys can get away with, such as stock write-downs. Now, however, perhaps influenced by the continuing under-performance of Allied shares, he is prepared to consider the D-word. Demerger, he says, would be "more a matter of pragmatism than principle", but while this sentiment strikes a discordant note coming from the intellectually refined Sir Christopher, it perfectly encapsulates the demands of the stock market. Allied has tried to argue that its different brands benefit from the international expertise within the group but they have different

teams persuading the South Americans that Sauza tequila is the perfect tipple and that the ideal snack is a Dunkin' Donut. The tastes do not combine well and neither do the marketing departments, although there may be some cultural knowledge of various communities to share. That fun-loving Frenchman, Bernard Arnault, has told the boards of Guinness and Grand-Met that there is no sense in keeping hamburgers, food and hard drink in one combine but they have shunned his advice and pressed ahead with the creation of Diageo. Sir Christopher owns up to the fact that his rivals' decision to join forces prompted him into "a deep and thorough appraisal" of Allied. This may surprise some investors who had imagined this was what he might have been involved in since arriving at the company but perhaps that is merely to underestimate quite what tidying up needed to be done before consideration could be given to the future.

But the Diageo deal has begun the shakeout which has been threatening the spirits sector for a decade. If Allied moves fast to pick the right global partner, whether in a merger or a less intractable alliance, it could cer-

tainly give Diageo a contest. Demerger is not always a recipe for success — Sir Christopher's splitting of Courtaulds almost a decade ago did not have the same liberating effect as ICI's discovery of Zeneca within its empire — but it would concentrate the minds of top management and investors. And a business that glories in owning the Big Steak Pub/Wacky Warehouse concept surely should not be mixed up with the likes of Kahlua.

Abbey National strides from herd

There was a touch of Gavyn Davies meets The Archers in the airwaves yesterday, as the Goldman Sachs economist warned the CBI that the economy is growing furiously and the Office of National Statistics intoned that the dreadful crop of potatoes is to blame. The moaners of Ambridge

could be carrying the can on both counts should they happen to have a mortgage with Abbey National, which yesterday strode away from the herd and lifted rates by the same quarter per cent imposed by the monetary policy committee of the Bank of England last week. Some lenders have committed themselves to not implementing any rise this year but others will certainly follow Abbey's lead.

This means that some borrowers will be hit with increased bills to meet from their December salary cheque, a salutary reminder that perhaps they should not turn this into the bumper Christmas for which the stores are waiting. The inflation bears were in loud voice yesterday, but with only the slightest official encouragement, since underlying retail prices rose just 0.1 per cent during October. But the confounded prediction that they would remain stable was enough to cause a degree of panic

in some quarters, as voiced by Mr Davies in Birmingham.

He has little time for Archers-style complaints about the effect of blight and frosts on the King Edwards, although such unseasonable attacks on seasonal fruit and vegetables did, apparently, account for around half the unexpected increase in October's inflation rate. While Brookfield may not yet be suffering the after-effects, there are even suggestions in some quarters that the ravages of El Niño will soon make themselves felt at the British checkouts.

Mr Davies's opposite numbers, who saw no need of last week's base rate increase, say we should not get worked up about one-off factors such as these. But how many one-off factors should be excluded before deciding where the trend is going? Purists would argue that food prices can hardly be excluded from the inflation equation, but accuracy surely demands that the effects of

the weather be separated from the cost of labour and other more manageable components. The potato price has had such an impact because this time last year the bumper crops meant lower prices. Another reason for moaning in Ambridge, then, but one for economists to tread warily now before calling for yet higher interest rates.

Case against the prosecution

It must be a burning sore for the UK regulatory authorities that — despite all the distress and cost caused by Roger Levitt — he was sentenced to fewer hours of community service than was the footballer, Eric Cantona, for his altercation with an abusive fan. This is why the Department of Trade and Industry appeared to be in such haste to bring Levitt back from the US. And in that haste they have bungled his extradition so fundamentally.

Coming at the same time as the Inland Revenue's decision to drop its prosecution of Octav Botnar for tax fraud, six years after raiding the former Nissan UK boss's offices, it raises the

question again of the way we go about investigating financial crime and securing sentences which will deter potential fraudsters. Ros Wright, the recently appointed director of the Serious Fraud Office, is strongly of the opinion that trial by jury should be dropped in fraud cases — as the crimes are often too complex to be understood by average citizens — and that there should be a greater use of civil remedies, such as confiscating assets held by believed fraudsters and their families.

Using the civil law clearly has advantages. There is a judge not a jury, and justice can be dispensed fairly quickly. But as the DTI has shown so clearly, it does not matter what system operates if the prosecuting authority makes basic mistakes like trying to extradite someone for an alleged crime not covered by the extradition treaty.

Concert party

THE one international competition this Government is sure to win is for establishing the greatest number of working parties in the shortest time. Yesterday, the President of the Board of Trade launched six more, one of them, inevitably, dedicated to competitiveness. Top businessmen will be so occupied filling all the slots that have been created, the risk is that their businesses must suffer. Or were they indispensable after all?

Kodak to cut 10,000 jobs in shake-up

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

EASTMAN KODAK, the photography company, yesterday said it is to cut 10,000 jobs worldwide in a \$1 billion (\$590 million) restructuring plan. Kodak employs about 5,000 in the UK, where an unspecified number of redundancies are expected. A spokeswoman said: "Most of the jobs that are to be lost are in the US, but there will be some here."

The 10 per cent cut in the global workforce is aimed at fighting off its rival Fuji Film and will begin with an initial loss of 5,000 jobs in 1998. The UK staff work mainly at four sites: Harlow, northwest London, where 2,000 are employed; the head office in Hemel Hempstead; Amersley in Nottinghamshire; and Kirkby in Liverpool.

Kodak, which is heading for a 25 per cent profit decline this year, has already carried out several cost-cutting exercises in the last couple of years. Kay Whitmore, the former chief executive, was fired for not sacking people quickly enough. Andrew Fischer, who has led Kodak since 1993, said: "We have begun actions to achieve a minimum reduction of \$1 billion from our total cost structure over the next two years."

Mr Fischer was hired from Motorola, which he had dominated, but has failed so far to live up to his reputation as a corporate rejuvenator. Kodak's position as the world's largest photographic company is now under threat.

Encouraging start for Nycomed Amersham

BY PAUL DURMAN

NYCOMED AMERSHAM, the newly merged healthcare group, reported strong profits growth from its constituent businesses and said that it is making good initial progress integrating them (see Commentary, this page).

The company was formed over the last six months as Amersham International merged first with Pharmacia Biotech, and then with Nycomed, a Norwegian rival. The enlarged group claims to be the world leader in X-ray and other diagnostic imaging agents, and in supplying the biotechnology industry with the products and services needed in medical research.

Bill Castell, chief executive, said Nycomed Amersham is producing strong underlying trading. Amersham reported first-half pre-tax profits 32 per cent higher at £37.6 million, although this ignores the first £4.4 million of restructuring costs. Nycomed's third-quarter profits rose 40 per cent to NKr309 million (£27 million), although the nine-month total was up only slightly at NKr913 million (NKr896 million).

Mr Castell said: "Our employees have clearly delivered the goods. There is immense excitement for the merger. If people understand the merger it's very easy for them to accept."

The Nycomed deal was completed last month. Mr Castell said he had been nervous before the first meeting of the company's new board last week, saying it was "like meeting your in-laws".

Amersham's figures were flattered by the inclusion of Nihon Medi-Physics in Japan and £6.1 million of profits in a two-month contribution from Pharmacia Biotech. The healthcare division benefited from strong sales of Myoview, its heart-imaging agent, and of iodine seeds, a treatment for prostate cancer. However, sales of iodine seeds, 89 per cent higher at £9.8 million, were held back by production problems.

Mr Castell gave warning that Japan's recent move to ask patients to bear a greater share of healthcare costs has already cut sales by 4 to 5 per cent. He expects a flat year in Japan next year. The life science division saw the strongest growth from its genetic sequencing business, where sales grew 43 per cent.

As previously announced, Nycomed Amersham is not paying an interim dividend.



Bill Castell sees "immense excitement for the merger"

Sedgwick looks for strategic deal

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SEDGWICK GROUP said yesterday it would look at any deal that was in the strategic interests of the company and added value for shareholders. The insurance broker is the subject of bid speculation, with Marsh & McLennan and Aon named as possible suitors. In addition, Sedgwick has

hinted that it would consider a merger with Willis Corroon, a rival, although the latter has said it intends to remain independent. Announcing a modest rise in nine-month profits, Sedgwick said that there were still no signs of an end to the tough conditions plaguing the

sector. Overcapacity and falling rates continue to haunt the broking industry, with markets around the world remaining under pressure. Pre-tax profits for the period were £82 million, against £80.4 million for the corresponding period in 1996.

The strength of sterling had

an adverse effect of £9.2 million on pre-tax profit, and shares fell 1p to 117p. Rob White-Cooper, chief executive, said: "I do not think there is any indication anywhere of markets turning. I think it is true to say that there is still a great deal of capacity in the market."

Virgin Radio ruling delayed

THE PROPOSED takeover of Virgin Radio by Capital Radio, which has infuriated rivals of the two stations and threatened to put Chris Evans, the flame-haired presenter, out of a job, has been put on hold for another three weeks (Chris Ayres writes).

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday called for an

extension of the time allowed for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to put forward their report into the planned £87 million acquisition. The MMC began compiling its report at the end of July.

The extension of the deadline was greeted by the two stations as possible evidence that Mrs Beckett was not convinced by the arguments against the

takeover, which will make Capital the largest commercial radio station in the UK. A key issue is whether companies will then see Capital as the only London radio station worth buying advertising space from.

Mr Evans, on a ten-week contract to present Virgin's breakfast show, believes he could be fired if the takeover proceeds.

GTE keeps options open on MCI bid

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

GTE, the US telephone group that co-operated with BT in the battle to acquire MCI, yesterday refused to rule out making a hostile bid to thwart WorldCom's \$37 billion agreed offer.

Wall Street analysts said a new GTE bid was not as unlikely as MCI had suggested on Monday, when it accepted WorldCom's offer. WorldCom had raised its bid from \$30 billion to \$37 billion, making a comeback for GTE from its \$28 billion offer very costly.

A GTE spokesman yesterday said: "We have not announced any changes to our position."

BT, which had made its own

\$24 billion bid, has agreed to sell its 20 per cent MCI stake to WorldCom for \$7 billion in cash, thereby ruling itself out of the bid battle. BT has also accepted payment of a \$465 million fee for the break-up of its planned merger with MCI. If MCI were to accept a raised GTE offer, MCI would, under the takeover contract, have to pay WorldCom \$1.2 billion for reneging on the agreement. But GTE could be helped by the volatility of WorldCom's share price. Its stock swap offer will decline in value if the price falls below \$29. The shares fell from \$33 to \$31 on Monday and declined another \$1 yesterday.

Former minister is made JKK chairman

BY CHRIS AYRES

LORD FRASER OF Carmyllie, the former Energy Minister, yesterday succeeded Sir Robert Horton, the chairman of Railtrack, as non-executive chairman of JKK, the oil and gas exploration company.

Sir Robert abruptly resigned from JKK last month after it fought off a £54 million takeover bid from Ramco Energy.

Lord Fraser, a director of Elf UK, is understood to be receiving

only half the £46,000 salary paid to Sir Robert. JKK is becoming increasingly influenced by Ukragrom, the Ukrainian state-owned oil and gas company, which effectively scuppered Ramco's bid by buying a large stake in JKK. Ukragrom is thought to be behind the resignations yesterday of two JKK directors, David Boyd and John Kenney.

Advertisement for LineOne. Text: "How much will it cost to try LineOne for a month?" Features: One FREE month's membership, Five FREE e-mail addresses, Five FREE news-gathering "intelligence agents", Ten FREE hours' access to LineOne and the Internet. It will cost you nothing to try LineOne, the UK information and entertainment service with its award-winning Internet access provided by BT. Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210. www.LineOne.net. It's what you want to know.

Advertisement for Worldcover. Text: "WORLD COVER ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE CALL US ON 0800 365 121".

Advertisement for Kleinwort Benson. Text: "The Kleinwort Benson Client Advice. If you want to clear your £200,000 mortgage before you take early retirement, you may need to know." Includes contact number 0800 317477 and address: Kleinwort Benson Private Bank, PO Box 191, 10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 3LB.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares falter on fears of further interest rate rises

CITY investors were running for cover, with the prospect of further interest rate rises now almost inevitable.

Yesterday's rise in the inflation rate to its highest level for more than two years prompted City economists to begin warning of the consequences of the economy's trend. Gavyn Davies, at Goldman Sachs, told the CBI he saw interest rates rising to 8 per cent by the spring. Richard Jeffrey, at Charterhouse, the merchant bank, has been warning of inflationary pressures for some time and forecasting 8 per cent base rates before Christmas. "We need to know if they are going to raise rates in December and by how much. The Bank of England needs to become more aggressive. I would like to see it raise rates by half a point next month," he said.

It did little for market confidence, although prices did close above their worst levels of the day after an early market rally. The Dow Jones industrial average, the FTSE 100 index clawed back an early 52-point deficit to finish 13.1 down at 4,793.7. Turnover was a lacklustre 762 million shares.

The recovery in high street sales during October did little to reassure brokers, who saw it as too little, too late. Nick Bubb, retail analysts at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, wasted little time in downgrading the sector from "positive" to "neutral".

Falls were seen in Great Universal Stores, 5 1/2p to 662 1/2p, Dixons, 18p to 690p, and Courts (Furnishers) 11p to 48 1/2p.

Some of the biggest turnover was seen in British Telecom, down 8 1/2p at 456 1/2p as London investors turned sellers in the wake of the WorldCom-MCI deal.

Cable & Wireless firmed 3 1/2p to 485p amid hopes that BT will make a bid. Speculative buying also lifted Securicor 3p to 286 1/2p. Now that BT is flushed with cash after the sale of its 20 per cent stake in MCI, hopes are high that it may spend some of it buying Securicor's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the mobile phone operator.

Brokers took full-year figures from Allied Domecq in their stride. But the price rose 27p to 508p after the group indicated it may be consider-



Shares in leading builders dipped on a negative report

ing a demerger in the face of the proposed Guinness-Grand Metropolitan merger. Some City speculators have suggested Allied may link up with Seagram, the Canadian wine and spirits group. GrandMet finished 2p firmer at 546 1/2p, while Guinness was 2p dearer at 547p.

Bardays Bank was 9p off at £15.03 after Andrew Buxton, chairman, ruled out the possibility of a merger with the bank's parent, the Guinness-Grand Metropolitan group. He refused to comment on reports that the group had approached Legal & General, up 5p at 488p.

Scottish Media, the independent television broadcaster, stood out with a rise of 1 1/2p to 676p after the company's own broker upgraded its recommendation for the shares from a "hold" to a "buy". But

News of the bid approach enabled Meivier Swain to enjoy one of the best gains among the top 350 companies, with the price leaping 49p, or 24 per cent, to 254p. In September, shares of the electrical equipment group were hit by a price warning.

GIILT-EDGED: The latest inflation numbers took their toll on the bond market by increasing fears about the prospect of further interest rate rises. Prices at the longer end of the market were left nursing falls of up to 1p.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt shed 5 1/2p to close at £117 1/2p, in thin trading that saw just 57,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 tumbled 5 1/2p to £117 1/2p, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 5 1/2p off at £100 1/2p.

NEW YORK: Gains on Wall Street were tempered by a sell-off in Caterpillar after a broker downgraded the stock. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 14.98 points higher at 7,567.57.

Spirax Sarco dropped 13 1/2p to 65 1/2p after SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, downgraded its recommendation on the shares from a "hold" to a "sell".

Shares of Industrial Control Services dropped 6 1/2p to 49p on the back of a profits warning.

The insurance composites continued to fall from grace. Royal & Sun Alliance, which reported last week fell 2p to 547p, after NatWest Markets, the broker, dropped the shares from its list of favourite stocks.

Falls were also seen in General Accident, down 13p at 972p, and Commercial Union, 25p off at 800p. Brokers such as Crédit Lyonnais Laing have been saying for some time that the absence of any takeover moves means that the composites are overvalued.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, put the boot into the housebuilders by suggesting that the number of houses being built had declined and that house price inflation had already slowed from 6 per cent to 5 per cent. It lowered its recommendation for George Wimpey, 1 1/2p easier at 115p, from "add" to "hold" along with Redrow, 6p off at 150p. Barratt Developments, 2 1/2p softer at 256p, has been moved from "hold" to "sell".

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 7567.57 (+14.98) S&P Composite 925.95 (+4.82)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 15867.23 (+170.03)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 10004.13 (+11.28)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 855.74 (+1.30)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2524.0 (+2.4)

Frankfurt: DAX 3731.08 (+21.43)

Singapore: Straits Times 1884.10 (+35.41)

Brussels: CAC 40 3400.00 (+10.00)

Paris: CAC 40 3400.00 (+10.00)

Zurich: SMI 1149.60 (+6.40)

London: FTSE 100 4793.7 (-13.1) FTSE 250 4635.6 (-5.2)

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TEMPUS

Flight of fancy

SOME people think that Britain's regional airports are a treasure trove. Some people may be wrong. FirstBus is the preferred bidder for Bristol International Airport and it could end up paying some £40 million for a half share. Last year Bristol processed 1.4 million passengers, and it has big plans to build a terminal to accommodate three million, a scenario that raises the attractive prospect of spin-off profits from retailing.

The trouble is that all airports are unique and no airport is like Heathrow. Some regional airports, Liverpool, for example, have never left the runway because of the proximity of a larger, more successful competitor, such as Manchester. BAA has never made a great success of Southampton and National Express will have its work cut out to make Bournemouth a winner. Bristol's catchment area is

sufficiently affluent to develop reasonable holiday charter traffic, but the proximity of Cardiff poses a competitive threat.

Small airports ultimately depend on charter traffic, which last year slumped unexpectedly, and it is unreasonable to expect significant scheduled traffic to build up at small airports in the South of England.

Airlines tend to flock together, seeking the lucrative transfer business that fills empty seats, hence the huge profitability of Heathrow. That poses another question about Bristol, which made about £3.50 per passenger last year, compared with BAA's £4.50 per passenger across its UK airports. Assuming a £40 million investment, FirstBus is valuing Bristol at 26 times earnings. You can buy BAA on a multiple of 14; Bristol is enough to be sceptical about FirstBus.

Food retailers

SHOPKEEPERS love a good dose of inflation. It tends to flatter their earnings and by keeping staff costs under control, extra revenue can boost the bottom line. So, food retail shares jumped on news that food prices rose 1.4 per cent year-on-year. A welcome surprise after a full year of price deflation and thin gross margins.

The real good news is not the El Niño weather pattern putting up the price of a pound of spuds. The underlying dynamics of food retailing are looking better than for some time.

First, the strength of sterling has given the supermarkets buying power on the 20 per cent of their products which come from abroad.

Secondly, the intensity of the petrol retailing battle has abated, allowing the super-

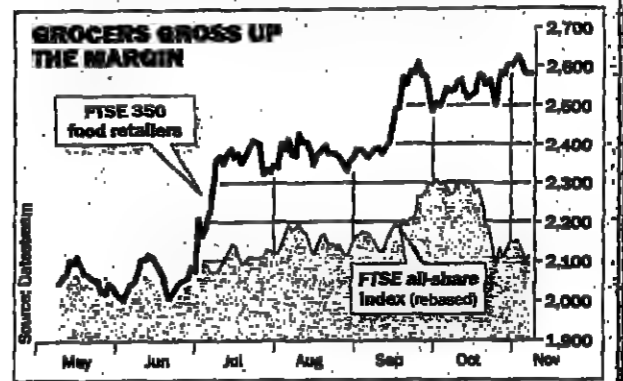
stores some margin recovery on selling fuel.

Finally, and most important, there is strong evidence of organic growth coming through in recent sales figures. Excluding inflation, volume growth in sales is trending above 3 per cent, well up with the growth in the underlying economy and a full point above 1996. That

provides comfort to those who worry that the super-

stores have nowhere to go due to restrictions on out-of-town expansion.

And, arguably, the slowdown in building will help to avoid a recurrence of the vicious discounting of a year ago. Peace and prosperity are compelling reasons to buy their shares.



Nycomed

Amersham

AMERSHAM International was a difficult company to understand at the best of times, involved in iodine seeds and gene sequencing. After a complex series of mergers, the group's results have become almost meaningless. On the company's (favourable) reading of its interim figures, profits are up by 57 per cent, sales by 47 per cent, and earnings by 40 per cent. However, ignore the Pharmacia deal and a Japanese joint venture and include effects of currency changes and restructuring costs, and a less flattering picture emerges. Sales by "old" Amersham grew by only 2 per cent, while profits rose 3 per cent.

The underlying business looks strong, and the enlarged group has big opportunities in areas such as ultrasound imaging and genetic analysis. However,

there are risks too: Nycomed's X-ray imaging business will have to continue cutting prices, while Japan's new cost consciousness will

hold back the healthcare business next year.

This column was premature in July when it advised taking profits when Amersham's shares were around £17. They are now at £22.22, but the City is taking the synergies and £100 million of annual savings on trust, while ignoring potential problems. Any upside is priced in the shares; investors should sell and look for better value elsewhere.

General Accident

IN AN IDEAL world, a composite insurer's portfolio would be weighted heavily towards life and pensions. GA's experience suggests that many Britons put their windfall building society profits into a long-term life savings plan. GA's long term life

product has put on sales of nearly 50 per cent in just three months — a level that the company admits is unsustainable.

Unfortunately, total premiums from life business for the nine-month period make up only a quarter of its business portfolio. The remainder comes from general business, whose trading conditions, which were hardly any better, appear to be worsening.

Fears that there are tough times ahead for insurers heavily weighted towards general insurance sent shares in the sector tumbling yesterday. GA has been trying to improve its margins in this area by putting up premiums wherever possible. In spite of this, UK motor and household insurance is still a bad business to be in, and will remain so until the weak players withdraw their capital from the market or get taken over. In the meantime, avoid the shares.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

| BRITISH FUNDS | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1997 | 1996 | 1995 | 1994 | 1993 | 1992 | 1991 | 1990 | 1989 | 1988 |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 |
| 111 | 112 | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 |
| 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 |
| 131 | 132 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 |
| 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 |
| 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 |
| 161 | 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 | 169 | 170 |
| 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 | 176 | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 |
| 181 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 187 | 188 | 189 | 190 |
| 191 | 192 | 193 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 198 | 199 | 200 |

| LIFE OPTIONS | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1997 | 1996 | 1995 | 1994 | 1993 | 1992 | 1991 | 1990 | 1989 | 1988 |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 |
| 111 | 112 | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 |
| 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 |
| 131 | 132 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 |
| 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 |
| 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 |
| 161 | 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 | 169 | 170 |
| 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 | 176 | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 |
| 181 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 187 | 188 | 189 | 190 |
| 191 | 192 | 193 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 198 | 199 | 200 |

| LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--|--|--|
| | Period | Open | High | Low | Settle | Vol | | | |
| Long Gilt | Dec '97 | 118.13 | 118.19 | 117.18 | 117.40 | 9993 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 186552 | Mar '98 | 118.28 | 118.29 | 118.07 | 118.07 | 1737 | | | |
| German Govt Bond (Bund) | Dec '97 | 102.61 | 102.69 | 102.52 | 102.56 | 33320 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 245390 | Mar '98 | 101.95 | 101.93 | 101.60 | 101.60 | 1000 | | | |
| German Govt Bond (Bobl) | Dec '97 | 103.44 | 103.45 | 103.34 | 103.36 | 2958 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 22506 | Mar '98 | 103.75 | 103.75 | | | 1000 | | | |
| Indian Govt Bond (BISY) | Dec '97 | 111.49 | 111.49 | 111.44 | 111.45 | 1200 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 15752 | Mar '98 | 111.66 | 111.70 | 111.68 | 111.72 | 20 | | | |
| Japanese Govt Bond (JGB) | Dec '97 | 130.10 | 130.18 | 130.05 | 130.10 | 1638 | | | |
| | Mar '98 | 128.25 | 129.27 | 129.21 | 129.24 | 100 | | | |
| Three Mth Sterling | Dec '97 | 92.39 | 92.39 | 92.30 | 92.31 | 21790 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 72026 | Mar '98 | 92.47 | 92.38 | 92.16 | 92.21 | 37350 | | | |
| Three Mth Eurozone | Dec '97 | 96.19 | 96.19 | 96.10 | 96.17 | 15002 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 181187 | Mar '98 | 95.91 | 95.91 | 96.08 | 96.00 | 21007 | | | |
| Three Mth Eurodollar | Dec '97 | 91.62 | 91.62 | 91.54 | 91.57 | 14897 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 508179 | Mar '98 | 94.33 | 93.33 | 93.29 | 93.37 | 11002 | | | |
| Three Mth Euroyen | Dec '97 | 97.80 | 97.80 | 97.85 | 97.81 | 999 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 191381 | Mar '98 | 97.10 | 97.10 | 97.12 | 97.18 | 3972 | | | |
| Three Mth ECU | Dec '97 | 95.32 | 95.31 | 95.28 | 95.31 | 991 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 36742 | Mar '98 | 95.24 | 95.34 | 95.31 | 95.22 | 877 | | | |
| FTSE 100 | Dec '97 | 4863.0 | 4862.8 | 4777.0 | 4822.0 | 4746 | | | |
| Previous open Interest 74165 | Mar '98 | 4973.0 | 4973.0 | 4973.0 | 4964.0 | 300 | | | |
| MONEY RATES (%) | | | | | | | | | |

Analysts cast shadow over increased GA profits

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

STRONG sales of life and pensions products provided a boost for General Accident's profits but failed to lift its share price yesterday as analysts gave warning that there are tough times ahead for UK composites.

GA's shares tumbled 22p to 96.5p, while those in fellow insurer Commercial Union dropped 17p to 80.8p. This was despite a 23 per cent increase in GA's nine-month profits to a record £124 million (£118 million) and an increase in pre-tax profits from £311 million to £384 million, meeting analysts' targets.

Operating earnings per share were 53.3p for the period (44p) and the strength of sterling knocked £9 million off operating profits. Much of the

growth came from what Philip Twyman, group executive director of finance, called the "windfall effect".

Mr Twyman said that anecdotal evidence suggested that a large number of people used the windfall bonuses they received from building society conversions to buy a single premium savings product.

This had led to a 48 per cent increase in GA Life's core investment product, the Portfolio Bond, which had attracted £547 million in the nine-month period.

GA's £195 million acquisition of Provident Mutual in September 1995 had helped to increase profit from long-term business 26 per cent in the nine months, from £77 million to £97 million.

Although the market reacted negatively to comments in the composite's results about increased competition and attempts to put up premium rates, Steven Bird, insurance analyst at Merrill Lynch, is forecasting full-year pre-tax profits of £502 million (£421 million).

GA was less optimistic about prospects for personal motor and household insurance. Mr Twyman said: "We are selectively putting premium rates up and are prepared to lose business rather than follow the market down."

In the UK, GA's personal lines business posted underwriting profits of £15 million, down from £30 million a year earlier, while the personal motor account's underwriting deficit widened to £27 million, from £10 million.

The United States underwriting deficit in sterling terms over the nine months decreased from £96 million last time to £65 million.

Tempus, page 30

Ladbroke wins Cairo casino deal

LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming group, has won a concession to run the casino at the Nile Hilton in Cairo in competition with several other international gaming companies (Dominic Walsh writes).

The casino is understood to have 15 gaming tables and 18 slot machines aimed at international high-rolling gamblers. It is scheduled to reopen next month after extensive refurbishment.

Analysts welcomed the deal as further evidence of Ladbroke's international gaming ambitions. It has also pitched for five casino licences in South Africa.



Brian Taylor, chief executive of Wardle Storeys, which overcame adverse trading conditions and the strong pound

Wardle Storeys defies elements

By MARTIN BARROW

WARDLE STOREYS, the parachutes and inflatable boats company, lifted pre-tax profits to £125 million from £105 million in the year to the end of August. In spite of difficult trading conditions in Europe and the adverse impact of the strong pound,

Two of the company's three

divisions contributed a strong advance in operating profits. Technical products earned £6.4 million, up from £5 million, on sales that fell to £60.8 million, from £64.2 million. A significant reduction in overheads helped to offset problems caused by the strong pound.

Profits from the inflatable systems division rose 39.4 per

cent to £2.5 million on sales that increased 35.6 per cent to £20.1 million. The division will benefit further from the £125 million acquisition of Dunlop Beaufort from BTR Industries, which was completed in August.

A third division, airborne systems, held profits unchanged at £3 million on sales that fell to £21.7 million from

£24 million. The division suffered a setback in America when work on the US Defence Department's advanced tactical parachute system went elsewhere.

The total dividend at Wardle Storeys, where Brian Taylor is chief executive, rises 8 per cent to 20.5p a share, for a 14p final, payable from earnings of 32.6p (27.2p).

Iraqi troubles may benefit Umeco

By ADAM JONES



McGowan: record orders

THE Ministry of Defence may ask for the production of aircraft refuelling units to be accelerated in response to the instability in Iraq.

Umeco, which makes the land-based vehicles, said yesterday that the ministry had asked about the possibility of speeding up their manufacture earlier this week.

Clive Snowdon, chief executive, said the company had a number of orders from the MoD for new and refurbished

refuelers, but could not say how many. The MoD would not comment on "speculation" over its production schedules. Brian McGowan, chairman, said Umeco had record order books for the second half.

Umeco announced a doubling in pre-tax profits from an interim figure of £1 million in 1996 to £2.1 million in the six months to September 30. The figure includes a maiden contribution from GRP Material Supplies, bought in May,

where operating profits were £700,000. Umeco's aerospace components distribution business recorded a 60 per cent rise in operating profits. Turnover increased 77 per cent to £22.8 million. An interim dividend of 2.1p (8p) will be paid on February 12.

Umeco's purchase of Med-Lab International, a distributor of minerals to the aerospace and petroleum industries, for £1.07 million cash left gearing at about 10 per cent.

Woolwich flotation chief quits

WOOLWICH, the former building society turned bank, yesterday announced the resignation of the director who managed its £9 billion stock market flotation (Richard Miles writes).

The bank said that Peter Burton, 46, director of group resources, had resigned for personal reasons after completing several major projects during ten years of service with the group.

His departure, described by the Woolwich as amicable, comes on the eve of a management restructuring that will effectively see his board position disappear and his responsibilities reallocated.

Mr Burton said: "The time is now right to look to new challenges." He is understood to have a new job lined up, but he is unwilling to disclose its nature. He will leave on December 17.

FirstBus set to take 51% airport stake

FIRSTBUS, the bus operator, is looking to the skies by taking a controlling stake in Bristol International Airport. It has been chosen as preferred buyer of a 51 per cent stake in the airport, the thirteenth-largest in the UK, by Bristol City Council, which will retain a 49 per cent interest.

Bristol International serves 15 million passengers a year. The council has plans to build a new terminal to increase capacity from 1.8 million to three million passengers a year. Included in the plans is the installation of all-weather landing instrumentation and a new diversion on the nearby A38 road.

In the year to April, Bristol International earned pre-tax profits of £5 million on turnover of £25.5 million.

Tempus, page 30

SICILY ISLAND IN A SEA OF LIGHT.



Look a little closer at Sicily and you'll see there's a secret side waiting to be discovered. Unexpected riches abound. A fascinating cultural heritage, a remarkable history, a wealth of artistic treasures. And a unique character created by the constant influence of the surrounding Mediterranean Sea. Such diversity exists in Sicily. Vibrant contrasts. Hidden facets, to which the changing seasons add even more variety, more light, more shade. Sicily is many things, but remains one special place in a world of its own.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

SPRINT COLLEGE WITH A ROYAL MEDICAL FOUNDATION. The Annual General Meeting of Governors will be held at the offices of the Medical Foundation, London, 21, Dovesfield Place, London W1A 2AB on Wednesday, 3 December 1997 at 4.30pm. The Agenda will include: 1. Adoption of the Report of the Governors for the year ended 31 October 1997. 2. Election of Governors for the year 1998. 3. Other business as may come before the meeting.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE. CHANCERY DIVISION. COMPANIES COURT. IN THE MATTER OF CANTONIA BALTIMORE INSURANCE LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Petition presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the administration of the estate of the above-named company, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985, was presented to the Court on the 26th day of November 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF CONFESSIONAL TOOLS LIMITED. COMPANY NUMBER 12345678. NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF CONFESSIONAL TOOLS LIMITED. COMPANY NUMBER 12345678. NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF CONFESSIONAL TOOLS LIMITED. COMPANY NUMBER 12345678.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Petition presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the administration of the estate of the above-named company, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985, was presented to the Court on the 26th day of November 1997.

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Outstanding Secretarial Positions in a leading International Pharmaceutical Company.

Lilly Research Centre is part of Eli Lilly and Company Limited, with a continuing commitment to innovative research and development of ethical pharmaceutical products.

We are currently looking for a number of high calibre individuals who will answer yes to all these questions:

Are you seeking a career within an organisation which values and respects the opinion of all members of the team?

Would you be interested in career development opportunities which would challenge you and enhance your personal development?

Are you a self-starter who operates beyond the expectation of a secretary - involved in project work and committed to continual process improvement?

The following secretarial positions are currently available:

Managing Director / HR Manager

Confidence and strong interpersonal skills are essential to be the first point of contact both internally and for external visitors. An exceptional organizer, you'll need tact, initiative and leadership qualities to co-ordinate day to day activities and projects, including handling confidential information. Ref: 97/51/805.

Corporate Quality Assurance

A mature personality will manage the workload of this group, planning, organizing and providing secretarial / administrative support, developing and maintaining records, archiving and dealing with correspondence. Ref: 97/46/826.

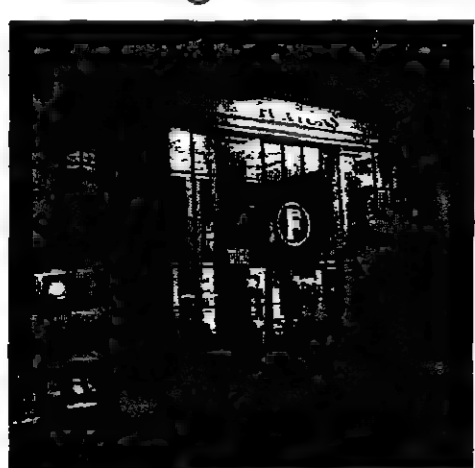
For all these posts, several years' experience is essential, as is a high degree of computer literacy - Word, Excel, Powerpoint - good communication skills and the confidence to take responsibility for your own actions while working with the minimum of supervision.

The Lilly Research Centre offers highly competitive salaries and benefits, which include a non-contributory pension scheme, flexible working hours, 25 days' annual holiday and an extremely attractive working environment.

To apply, please send your CV to the Personnel Department, Eli Lilly and Company Limited, Lilly Research Centre, Ed Wood Manor, Widdlesham, Surrey GU20 6PH. Tel: (01276) 853571. Please apply by Friday 28th November 1997. Please quote appropriate reference.

Lilly

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To work for head of PR consultancy, described as 'the impossible boss'.

Computer literate, organized, unflappable, tactful and confident of own ability. Good shorthand/typing.

£19,000 p.a. Apply Miss Hughes, 2 Ridgmont Street, London WC1E 7AA.

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Self A/D/Design level educated secretary with 6 months office experience. Varied role including daily of customer service working for the most talented team in the industry.

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For further details please contact: 0171 252 5185 or fax 0171 400 0442.

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Excellent opportunity to be part of this exciting new venture in Central London. £15-£18K. If you want to get out and about, working on your own initiative, have good computer skills and telephone manner, call:

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Fulltime

High calibre secretary needed for exciting opportunity in dynamic property company. Excellent presentation and telephone manner essential. Competitive salary offered.

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PA/PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR

SALARY £18K PA PLUS BENEFITS

The Financial Training Company requires a computer literate Personal Assistant/Administrator to provide support in their busy corporate centre. This role is an important part of the Corporate team and the successful applicant will, in addition to assisting the Personnel and Finance Director, also assist the Senior PA with payroll and personnel administration. Project work and presentations are on-going so must be proficient on Word 6.0, Excel 5.0 and PowerPoint 4.0 and prepared to learn Microsoft E-Mail and ACT! database package. The role is a very much a people-orientated role with lots of organising and telephone work, therefore initiative and good communication skills are a must. A learning to personnel work would be an advantage.

We seek a young enthusiastic person with minimum 3 years' secretarial experience and, in return, offer an interesting, varied role with the potential for development. If you feel confident that you can tackle project work and detailed administration in addition to having proven secretarial skills and would enjoy working in a small, friendly team then send or fax a current CV with supporting letter to:

Christine Melvin
The Financial Training Company
10/14 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD
Fax 0171 837 0050
or telephone 0171 520 1140 for more information.

THE FINANCIAL TRAINING COMPANY

BIRKBECK COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE MASTER

An experienced Personal Assistant is required for the Master-elect of the College, Professor Tim O'Shea, who takes up his post on 1 January 1998. The PA will be responsible for setting up and developing the systems in the office, with sole responsibility for ensuring its professional and efficient running, with the assistance of another full-time Secretary. Applicants should have strong organisational, secretarial and administrative skills, supervisory experience and a minimum of six years' experience as a Personal Assistant/Senior Secretary, including at least two years' experience in higher education. Knowledge of shorthand and audio and computer literacy is essential, together with an advanced typewriting qualification.

Salary in the range of £20,093 to £22,282 pa inclusive of £2,134 pa Lodon Allowance in CRA grade 6.

For details and application forms please send a large (A4) s.a.e. to the Personnel Officer, Ref: MT003/77, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX. Closing date: 27 November 1997.

SECRETARY

£18,000-£17,500

Staines, Middlesex

To be primarily responsible for typing (some audio) confidential documents for a team of Executives operating in the IT sector. Other duties include handling telephone calls, travel arrangements and assisting with marketing functions. Candidates need good typing (WP) skills with audio experience and must have a professional telephone manner coupled with a mature, flexible approach. Knowledge of Microsoft Office suite will be advantageous (full training) and will suit a 'returnee'. Please send your CV to:

Grantchester (HR Consultants),
Staines, TW18 4RH

Fax: 01784 440040 Tel: 01784 461234 Evenings: 01872 380178.

Committee Administrator

Job Share - to work Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday (18 hours per week)

The Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) has an opportunity for a part-time committee administrator with strong organisational skills to work from our Westminster offices. The main emphasis of this role is the preparation of agendas, collation of briefing papers, maintenance of committee computerised files and general associated administrative services.

The successful applicant will probably have at least 5 years administrative experience with:

- fast and accurate typing skills and a good working knowledge of Word and other Microsoft products

- a proven track record in administration and organization, working to tight deadlines

- strong interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate with senior management effectively

- the recognition of being a strong team player with a commitment to job sharing

We offer a competitive salary package including a contributory pension scheme, season ticket loan and LVs.

To apply, please send a copy of your CV and current salary details with a covering letter to:

Pauline Burdon, Personnel Manager, EEF,
Broadway House, Tottenham Street, Westminster, SW1E 9NQ

THE VOICE OF ENGINEERING

Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom

Correspondence Secretary

£15,837 - £17,829pa

Are you an experienced person with a mature attitude and excellent secretarial and interpersonal skills? We have an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic and motivated individual to work as part of a small, dynamic team in the office of the General Secretary of the RCN.

The team provides comprehensive administrative, secretarial and personal support to the Chief Executive and President. This involves working with staff at senior level and RCN Council members, as well as senior officials from the Government, the health sector and a wide range of other organisations. The pace is hectic, the tasks in hand are often of top priority and of a highly sensitive and confidential nature.

You will need to be able to cope with very pressured situations, have excellent communication skills and have stamina and flexibility to meet the demands of a varying and heavy workload. You will be expected to provide excellent secretarial support and possess a good sense of humour.

The position offers a challenging but rewarding opportunity, with good conditions of employment, including 28 days annual leave and a non-smoking environment.

For further details and an application form (CVs in isolation will not be accepted) please write to the Personnel Department, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB, quoting job ref: RCN1864. Closing date for receipt of applications: 1st December. Interview date: 15th December 1997.

The Royal College of Nursing is a registered charity which promotes the art and science of nursing. We are committed to equal opportunities and welcome applications from job seekers.

Excellent Secretarial Opportunities in Management Consulting

On behalf of some of our Management Consulting Clients, we currently require PAs and Secretaries with the following skill levels (for Permanent Jobs):

PA's: Min 30 wpm, Adv. Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Audio and/or Shorthand, 30 wpm

Secretaries: Min 30 wpm, Adv. Word, Shorthand, Powerpoint/Excel/Word, 20 wpm

DTP Secretaries: Adv. Powerpoint/Word, Word skills, 30+ wpm, 20 wpm

PA to Director, WC2, £22,500 + Bens

PA to Partner, ECA, £20-22K + Bens

DTP Secretary, W1, £21-22K + Bens

Team Secretary, Surrey, £20K + Bens

Secretary to Director, W1, £19K + Bens

PR Receptionist (am or pm), Surrey, £9,700 + Bens

Please apply in the strictest confidence to:

Rita Mead, Tel: 0171-323-3233

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Excellent Salary & Package
Fed up with a routine role? Then working in this dual role for a Partner in a leading International Management Consultancy in WC2 is for you. This challenging role requires a sophisticated, ambitious PA who can balance secretarial duties, including managing diary, client liaison & organising hospitality, with business administration, such as analysing data and tracking business opportunities. Suit mid-20s/early 30s.
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A true PA position which will include working from the Managing Director's home & also the company office in Knightsbridge. The role will encompass his business & personal life plus dealing with the media. Previous experience at this level is a must.
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To apply, please write your CV, to: Susan Morris, Human Resources, KPMG, 56 Chiswick Road, Watford, WD1 1DA.

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TIME SAUERS

EVEN IF you chose all the options going in the automated install process for Office 95, there are some interesting things left behind on the CD. If you use clip art, photographs or drawings, you will be able to make good use of the Imagizer tool. On the Microsoft Office CD locate the ValuPack folder, and open the Imagizer folder inside. Double-click on set-up, but rename the default installation folder to 'c'.

The programme will open all the major types of graphics files, such as GIF, JPEG, BMP and so on, and allow you to crop, re-size and make other adjustments to them. If you use a scanner, you can scan images directly into it.

Also in the ValuPack folder are some nice images in the PhotoDisc folder - they're medium and high-quality versions of photos in BMP format suitable for many projects. Don't copy them all to your hard disk, unless you have gigabytes of space to spare - just use the ones you need and keep only the modified versions on your own hard disk.

CHRIS WARD

Am I going too fast for you?

A good shorthand note is no longer enough: secretaries must keep up with technology, writes Eve-Ann Prentice

Many secretaries fear they are losing their grip, according to a new advice service. Until now, most felt they had their fingers on the pulse; that they knew where to find their hands on that vital sales order record, had a note to chivy the boss into remembering meetings and anniversaries, and generally knew what he or she was up to, even when their nearest colleagues did not.

But new technology is changing all that. Bosses send messages by e-mail and fax modems - then forget to tell their secretaries.

"The increase in new technology has been the final straw for some secretaries," says Julie Samuels, director of Secretaries for the Future, a Lancashire-based group that aims to help secretaries and their managers to cope with the changes. "There are so many new challenges, with many secretaries not knowing

'New challenges mean many secretaries don't know their role any more'

their role any more. Managers issue more and more of their own correspondence through e-mail and faxes, and secretaries can feel left out on a limb."

An astonishing 97 per cent of business information is now issued by fax, according to Ms Samuels and "when you get to the top, you are very alone."

Secretaries for the Future, which was founded by Ms Samuels and Elaine Howard who acts as its chairman, runs a telephone helpline which members can call "most hours of the day and night" for advice, aims to hold regular meetings, and issues a news-sheet. "We aim to spread information which most secretaries don't hear about from existing magazines, which tend to treat them in a girly,

limbo-ish way," says Ms Samuels.

"We explain matters relating to the millennium bug, for instance. If you are working for a director, you need to understand why there are fears that computer systems may crash at the turn of the century."

Secretaries for the Future has won support from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examinations Board, reflecting its aim of working with managers as well as secretaries in smoothing life in the office. The group began recruiting in the summer and asks new members to fill in a confidential "wish list" to help to identify issues on which the group can give advice and information.

Margaret Bocking, who is a secretary at Keystone Valve UK Ltd, an engineering company in Stockport, Cheshire, reveals that her wish was for "my general manager to stand still long enough to talk to



Margaret Bocking: "It is not straightforward typing, as it used to be. Now I have to co-ordinate a lot of tasks"

me". After working as a secretary for engineering companies for 20 years, Ms Bocking says: "The job has definitely changed, and with increasing rates of structural change things could alter yet again. It is not straightforward

typing, as it used to be. Now I have to co-ordinate a lot of tasks and feel as if I am working for more people. For instance, we have a new security alarm system and I have to co-ordinate the running of that.

"With so many people having their own PCs, they tend to do their own thing. I am very lucky, though, because my boss does e-mail me. There's not a lot he doesn't tell me."

Nonetheless, she says, new technology has brought so

many changes that "the uncertainty is unsettling - but where would we be without the technology?"

For information on Secretaries for the Future, call Julie Samuels on 0161-766 9504 or Elaine Howard on 0161-440 4466.

Telephone: 0171 680 6806

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Fax: 0171 782 7586

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The dark side of the croon

As *Chicago* opens in the West End, Richard Morrison looks at musicals that present life as nasty, brutish and short

In my misspent youth I played the piano in a small but perfectly formed staging of the musical *Chicago*. One night the trumpet player sidled up. He was a hardboiled sort of chap, so I was startled when he said: "This piece really upsets me."

"You cannot be serious," I replied. "It goes like a rocket. It's got the catchiest tunes to come from Broadway since *Gypsy* and *Dolce*. It has dramatic verve. Its sardonic tilt at American justice are doubtless unfair but hilarious. And I cannot help noticing that the ladies on stage have almost no clothes on. For my money, this adds up to a musical that is somewhat more gripping than *Mary Poppins*."

"What you say is true," the trumpet player conceded. "But I have one big problem. I don't like a single character on stage. And I don't like the story. It's sordid and cynical from start to finish."

He had a point. At least, he almost had a point, which is not a good thing for a brass player. There is one guy in *Chicago*: poor Amos, the drunken husband of the scheming murderess Roxie. But even he is likeable: he's too pathetic.

As for the rest, well, there's the sleazy lawyer whose main concern is self-publicity; and the "six merry murderers", all busy concocting so stories to feed to the gullible press; and the grotesque woman who trades perks for lesbian favours; and the two cold-blooded "heroines", who plan to use their own murder trials to launch showbiz careers. And there is a plot that equates American courts with sedate vaudeville, in which there are no defendants, lawyers and judges — only "acts" strutting their stuff. Yes, *Chicago* is pretty sour.

It was written by Bob Fosse, John Kander and Fred Ebb in 1975, and based on a much older play — a 1920s drama penned by a Chicago reporter after she had covered two sensational murder trials in which

the female defendants had been acquitted despite damning evidence. But *Chicago* won't seem like a period piece when it is revived next week in the West End. In an age of televised trials and slick celebrity lawyers, cynicism about the law hasn't exactly gone away. And with £2 million of bookings already taken for the show, starring leggy Ute Lemper and feisty Ruthie Henshall, *Chicago* could be the smash hit of the winter.

What, though, of its trumpet-player's objections? Is it a brilliant show that leaves a nasty taste? Do characters so lacking in a moral dimension engage our empathy? Do we buy this utterly Machiavellian view of humanity? In *Chicago* it does seem at times as if Iago, Lady Macbeth and Richard III have all met in a photo opportunity concocted by Max Clifford.

Yet there is a long tradition of musicals that walk on the seamy side. That is often forgotten. The word "musical" usually evokes quasi-operas of the Lloyd Webber or Boublil/Schönberg school, or insane fables cooked up to display Astaire's footwork, or the homespun Americana rolled out by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

But there is an alternative tradition which derives its power from the very incongruity of mixing lurid material — "murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery", to quote *Chicago's* opening line — with razzle-dazzle tunes. Far from diminishing the impact of the grisly plots, the buoyant music sharpens the theatrical shock.

How far back does this tradition go? Right back to the musical's origins. It is present, for instance, in John Gay's *Beggar's Opera*, written in the 18th century as a black satire on sleaze, but using the jolliest "pop tunes" of the period. Remember the staging a few years ago by David Freeman, in which the entire cast produced nooses and



The murder trial presented as vaudeville: Ruthie Henshall, Henry Goodman and the chorus of newspaper reporters in the new West End production of *Chicago*

proceeded to simulate mass suicide as the curtain fell? You don't get that in *The Sound of Music*.

A sense of the macabre certainly runs through Gilbert and Sullivan. Indeed, Gilbert constructed *The Mikado* almost entirely from taste-free jokes about execution, self-decapitation and torture — to which Sullivan supplied tunes of radiant perkiness. And it was the dominant thread of the musicals written in 1920s Berlin by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill. Their *Threepenny Opera*, of course, was a reworking of *The Beggar's Opera* with souped-up sex and violence. In turn it, too, became a model — for the piece that Kander and Ebb

wrote prior to *Chicago*: the nihilistic but stunning *Cabaret*.

These musicals craftily frame serious subjects in an ostensibly lowbrow showbiz format. In *Chicago* the legal system is presented as vaudeville: in *Cabaret* the rise of Hitler is mirrored in a nightclub. But the prize for audacity here must go to Joan Littlewood, who presented the entire First World War as a devastating effect as a music-hall show in *Oh! What a Lovely War*.

Clearly the drama critics' perennial moan — "nothing but sugary musicals around these days" — is not quite accurate. Musical is as numerous as ever, but not all are as sugary. I saw a staging of Sond-

heim's *Sweeney Todd* in which the blood spurting from the severed jugular of the demon barber's ill-fated customer was so realistic that a man in the front row screamed. The same author's *Assassins* — a charmingly lyrical catalogue of gentlemen who have killed, or tried to kill, American presidents — didn't have this physically, but it did strike many Americans as bordering on treason.

Some lucky audiences in Massachusetts have seen the first "IRA musical", a preposterous yarn called *Brimstone* that ends with a choreographed shootout between a Bonnie-and-Clyde duo of terrorists and the nasty "British occupying

forces". The peace process will need to be somewhat more advanced before we see that in the West End. But it is possible that Paul Simon's first Broadway musical, *The Capeman*, will be coming here soon, and that has stirred up a noisy protest in America by retelling the true story of a Puerto Rican gangster who knifed two boys to death 40 years ago. *Shades of West Side Story* there, of course.

As with the furore over the Myra Hindley portrait at the Royal Academy, the families of the victims have been alerted to the "outrage" of *The Capeman* by the ever-vigilant press. "Does Paul Simon think that murder is some-

thing to sing about?" one protest leader asked this week.

The answer is clearly yes. But then, so did Mozart, Verdi, Wagner, Gershwin, Bernstein and every other theatre composer of genius. If you insist on a musical being glibly, escapist and as mushy as overboiled peas, then I believe *Starlight Express* is still doing excellent business at the Apollo Victoria. If you want something as sharp as a stiletto, as brilliant as a diamond, as sour as a lemon and as intoxicating as bourbon, don't miss *Chicago*. Also, it doesn't have me on the piano this time round.

Chicago is in preview at the Adelphi 0071-34 1155, and opens on Tuesday

A profit without honour?

Allen Robertson talks to the critics' bête noire, Derk Deane of English National Ballet

It is impossible to replace the inexpressible. This explains why no one has been chosen to succeed Diana, Princess of Wales, as the patron of English National Ballet. It is also why Derk Deane's severing of *The Nutcracker* is dedicated to her. Following its premiere in Southampton on Thursday, the production goes to Liverpool and Manchester before arriving at the London Coliseum on December 8, where opening night will begin with a specially commissioned film tribute to the Princess.

Keen dance fan all her life, some might even say a ballerina marquee, the Princess became the company's patron in 1989. Deane, who has been artistic director since 1993, could not be more enthusiastic about the very real care the Princess showed for ENB. Nor is it any secret that she played a pivotal role in securing sponsorship from Harrods for his new *Nutcracker*. "We can say that *The Nutcracker* was sponsored by the voice of the Princess of Wales," says Deane, referring to a crucial telephone call the Princess made on ENB's behalf.

Influential as Diana was in loosening those strings, however, money wasn't all she contributed. "She spent so much time with the dancers, which is something other patrons don't really do. This ten-minute film is our way of letting people know about her love of the art form."

ENB's new *Nutcracker* is designed by Sue Blane, who also created the sets and costumes for Deane's *Alice in Wonderland*. She and Deane have opted to set *The Nutcracker* in 1971, rather than in some cosy Dickensian world. "Sue has created a modern look totally based on a classical line," Deane says. "I wanted to change period. I wanted to change the story. But what I did not want was the Spice Girls on pointe."

Deane is a notoriously hard



Derk Deane rehearses Tamara Rojo in *The Nutcracker*, ENB's 1997 Christmas show

worker. In the studio he fizzes and whizzes around his dancers like a giddy, egging them on, shouting himself hoarse with encouragement. "I can be a tyrant," he says, "but only when I need to be, when I think people are being unprofessional, behaving badly or not doing their job. Because there are a lot of dancers out there who need jobs. If I have to be strict and demanding, then that is what I will be."

"I'm lucky to have the kind of character that doesn't get upset by people not liking me. I don't want anybody to hate me. I don't want anybody to spit at me, but I will not compromise."

Despite all the demands on him as the company's director, Deane regularly adds to his load the responsibility of staging ballets for ENB because he knows he doesn't have to pay himself an extra salary for doing so. "I can save the company £30,000 to £40,000 by doing this myself. However, that's not the reason why I do it. I do it because I feel it's a part of my job to be creative."

"I have always known that I am not a MacMillan, an Ashton, a Balanchine. I am not a unique talent in any way

as far as choreography is concerned. But I do have a great sense of theatre and of production values. Choreographically, I think I am a very good showman."

The box office figures prove that. Last summer's *Swan Lake* in the round at the Albert Hall played to 90 per cent capacity — some 50,000 people saw Deane's production during its two-week run. Deane will be creating a new version of *Kismet* and *Juliet* for the Albert Hall next June. But, despite his productions' popularity, the critics have had few kind words for his work.

"Of course it would be nice to get good reviews?" "Of course it would be nice to get good reviews and to have those people value your work," Deane says, "but I don't believe I'm lowering the quality of ballet by doing what I'm doing. If I didn't have to worry about box office, I might choose different subjects, but I don't feel the quality of the work would be different."

"I'm not sitting here saying this is a masterpiece, how dare they criticise it. But if people are so snooty, if people have no room for change and are not open-minded enough to enjoy and find value in something a bit different, well,

that's their problem. My artistic level may be too commercial, too populist for some critics. If they want to get that snally retentive about it, fine; but it is not my bag to keep repeating the past."

"I don't necessarily think big is bad and I had a ball at the Albert Hall. We all did. It created enormous excitement in the dancers. *Swan Lake* is going to Australia and Japan in 1999 — to say nothing of playing another season at the Albert Hall."

First, though, comes *The Nutcracker*, with an opening night cast headed by Lucia Lacarra, a Spaniard who has been dancing in Marseilles, and Robert Teweley, an Englishman based in Stuttgart. Other guests will come from Brazil, Milan, New York and Amsterdam.

"Robert's career has been outside this country, but he is English, thank God," Deane says. "I'm always having my face slapped, and on some levels quite rightly so, for not employing more English dancers. Well, I would gladly employ English dancers if they were lined up outside the door and they would dance. But that luxury, that dream, has yet to be offered to me."

The Nutcracker opens at the Mayflower, Southampton (01703 71811) on Thursday, and is at the London Coliseum (021-632 8300) from Dec 8 to Jan 10

CONCERTS: Rough-hewn Dvořák in Manchester; Australians in London

Sound reason for lack of heroics

Halé/Skrowaczewski Manchester

STEVEN Isserlis's Dvořák is so good in most parts that no one seems to mind very much if his account falls short of the whole story. Certainly, for his lyrical sensitivity and finely registered detail, he deserved every second of the prolonged applause bestowed on his performance with Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and the Halle Orchestra in the Bridgewater Hall.

The more heroic aspects of Dvořák's Cello Concerto, however, had met with a comparatively feeble response from the soloist — not through any lack of inspiration or effort but because he was working so hard in one part that his tie fell off, but through an unfortunate limitation on his dynamic range.

His purist reluctance to use metal strings is admirable but, when it comes to a work such as the Cello Concerto in a concert hall as big as this, its wisdom is open to question. The first entry of the solo instrument, marked in the score with every kind of dynamic emphasis and massively equipped with double-

stopped chords, is obviously intended to make an imposingly sonorous impression. On this occasion it, and passages like it, were frustratingly muffled. Fortunately, the Concerto is in the end a matter not of heroism but of emotional intimacy. And there was no lack of the latter quality either in the cello part or in the orchestra.

In Weber's *Freischütz* Overture, and in parts of the Dvořák too, the Halle sound seemed to have gone back ten years and even to have returned to the Free Trade Hall: it was refreshingly robust but coarse-grained in texture and rough at the edges. In Shostakovich's Sixth Symphony, on the other hand, Skrowaczewski combined something of the orchestra's developing sophistication with the un-

equivocal directness which emerges from his own uncompromising honesty in interpretation.

The major problem with the Sixth Symphony is to protect

the questioning seriousness of the opening Largo from being undermined by the apparent "who cares?" attitude of the two quick movements that follow and the celebration of music-hall vulgarity that comes at the end. The answer, Skrowaczewski demonstrated, is to make no attempt to modify the character of the work at either extreme. Play it for all it is worth, with no lack of long-term patience on the one hand and not without taking virtuoso risks on the other, and the underlying ironies make themselves unmistakably clear.

GERALD LARNER

Hits and misses

Australian Chamber Orch Wigmore Hall

THE month-long Australia Festival at the Wigmore Hall came to a resounding close on Friday with a second concert by the Australian Chamber Orchestra at the end of its European tour. This 17-strong flagship ensemble prides itself on its ability to tackle everything from Baroque to contemporary repertoire, extending the canon by taking over chamber music proper in expanded form.

Friday's concert revealed both the advantages and the dangers of such an approach. On paper, the programme was an imaginative mix: a Concerto Grosso by Handel (Op 6, No 6 in G minor), a Violin Concerto by Haydn (in C), works by Hindemith, Ravel and Peter Sculthorpe united by a theme of mourning, and Tchaikovsky's heartwarming *Souvenir de Florence* to finish.

In practice, a partial understanding of Baroque style, with unidiomatic bowing and articulation, drew little distinction between the Handel and Haydn concertos, though director Richard Tognetti played the solo part of the latter with considerable flair.

Hindemith's *Truismen*, hastily concocted in a six-hour stint in a BBC studio on the occasion of the death of King George V, is superbly con-

ceived for the composer's own instrument, the viola. Caroline Henbest gave an eloquent performance. Tognetti's own arrangement of Ravel's *Kaddish*, the first of the *Deux mélodies hébraïques*, draws effectively on spectral harmonies in the upper strings followed by no less unearthly timbres from cello and bass, to invoke the mood of mourning.

If the spark of inspiration was infrequent up to this point, after the interval any fatigue gave way to abandon, for an affecting account of Sculthorpe's *Lament* — a typically atmospheric response to the Australian landscape — and finally an invigorating performance of the *Souvenir de Florence*.

The electrifying end of the first movement drew applause, but there was even more passion to come in the remaining movements — a memento to treasure indeed.

BARRY MILLINGTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

CASPAR BERRY

Age: 24. Profession: Writer and sometime director.

Wasn't he in *Byker Grove*? "I was going out with a girl who auditioned for it. I was the only boy there and the producer said 'Do you want to try out?' I'd acted in amateur dramas so I said 'Yeah'. That was two years in total. Then I became a failed actor, a has-been at 18."

But he was writing all this time? "Not really. I'd written for theatre and I was doing music. But while I was writing *Byker Grove*, I made up my mind that I wanted to direct. In fact standing on the set on my first day I thought 'That is the job I want to do'. Two years later I wrote a short film and made it."

So how did he get to do *Stone in the Road*? "I wrote to about a hundred companies and got nowhere. It was an 18-year-old's script but I believed passionately in what I was saying. So I put the money from *Byker Grove* into it."

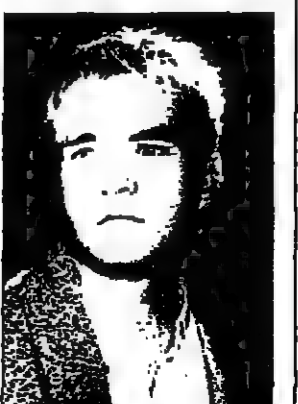
And that opened doors? "People don't give you the next step up in this business unless you have your calling-card. Richard Johns of Pilgrim Films here in Newcastle saw it and most of the history since then has been channelled through him. I'm really happy here."

How did he get to make commercials shown on Tynes-Tees television? "Richard's great gift to me is that he doesn't stand on experience. He just says: 'You're hungry. I think you can do it, here's a 35mm commercial'. He did just the same with *Downtime*: 'You can do it, write us a feature film.'"

What's *Downtime* about? "It's a love story action movie in which I tried to create what Spielberg is so good at: a real-world scenario fused with a filmic concept. I think British film is in the middle of a revolution. I've written four screenplays since."

When can we see *Downtime*? At the London Film Festival on November 22, or in the cinemas next February.



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Joint succession forbidden

Newham London Borough Council v Phillips

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hutton and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment October 30]

An official form under section 89 of the Housing Act 1985 signed by two sisters to succeed their mother as secure tenants following her death, which was countersigned by the housing authority did not create a joint tenancy.

The statutory provisions did not permit joint succession and an agreement between the sisters before signing the form that one of them only should succeed operated to vest the tenancy in that sister alone.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by Newham London Borough Council from the dismissal of its claim for possession of 77 Clarendon Road, Canning Town, by Judge Hornby in Bow County Court on November 1, 1996, on the ground that Josephine Phillips enjoyed a secure tenancy of the house under section 30 of the Housing Act 1985, now section 89 of the Housing Act 1996.

The four-bedroom house, had been let on a secure tenancy to Mrs Iris Phillips. She died on October 3, 1983.

Two of her daughters, Josephine

and Beryl, fulfilled the criteria set out in section 30 of the 1980 Act to succeed their mother as tenant.

Following the death, there had been a family agreement that Josephine should be the successor.

On October 6, 1983, at the council's housing office both sisters signed a form headed: "To be signed by successor tenant". The form, that stated: "I am successor to the above-mentioned tenant under the provisions of section 30 of the Housing Act 1985" was countersigned by a housing officer.

Asked whether she objected to Beryl's name being put on the rent book issued by the council, Josephine said she did not, providing it would not affect her own status as the successor tenant. Thereafter as Josephine and Beryl lived in the house until 1993 when their relationship broke down.

Beryl then asked to be rehoused and, on advice from the council, she served a notice to quit on Josephine which purported to terminate the tenancy with effect from October 17, 1994. See *Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council v Monk* [1992] 1 AC 478.

The judge held that the notice to quit was invalid as Josephine had succeeded to her mother's tenancy as a sole tenant.

Miss Gillian Carrington for the

council; Miss Josephine Phillips in person.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said that the council did not challenge the judge's finding that Josephine became the successor tenant by virtue of the family agreement shortly after her mother's death.

It was his case that it was entitled to possession because either (a) when the form was signed on October 6, 1983, Josephine surrendered by operation of law the tenancy she had succeeded to immediately following her mother's death and replaced it with a joint tenancy, or (b) Josephine was estopped by her conduct on October 6, 1983 and subsequently from denying that she and Beryl were joint tenants.

Both parties accepted that as a matter of law the transmission of the tenancy under section 30 of the 1980 Act to the sisters as joint tenants was impossible: see *Deale Properties Ltd v Brooks* [1965] 1 QB 542.

It would be impossible to attribute to Josephine a surrender of her tenancy. Even if one regarded what was written in the document signed by the sisters as prima facie indicative of a willingness on the part of Josephine to be a joint successor tenant with Beryl, why should that lead to an inference of surrender and the grant of a fresh

tenancy rather than to the simple conclusion that Josephine alone remained the tenant and the inclusion of Beryl was of no effect?

Unless there was an act by Josephine pointing unequivocally to surrender by her of her tenancy by succession, no question of estoppel could arise. There was no such unequivocal act: rather the opposite.

Turning to the council's alternative argument that Josephine was estopped from denying that she and Beryl were joint tenants, nothing that occurred on and after October 6, 1983 could have had the effect of putting an end to the tenancy. There was no basis on which a joint tenancy by estoppel could be said to have arisen.

At best the council could argue for an estoppel preventing Josephine from denying the existence of such a tenancy. However it could not succeed in the absence of some evidence of detriment to the council and there was none.

Moreover, given the judge's findings, Josephine's conduct after October 6 did not justify a finding of an unequivocal representation by her that Beryl was a joint tenant.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Mr J. D. Smith, East Ham.

Cargill International SA and Another v Sociedad Iberica de Moltracion SA and Others

Before Mr Justice Colman

[Judgment August 12]

An arbitrator who disagreed with the majority view was not entitled to insist on inserting his dissenting reasons before signing the award as required by the rules, when there was no provision in the rules for him to do so.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on originating committment issued against each other by Cargill International SA (Cargill), a Geneva branch and Cargill Incorporated on the one hand and Sociedad Iberica de Moltracion SA (SIMSA), the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA), Derek R. Marshall, Anthony G. Scott and Ronald J. Short on the other.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC and Mr Mark Hoyle for Cargill; Mr Murray Pickering, QC, for SIMSA.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN said that GAFTA, an important commodity association, provided arbitration facilities in London for parties from all over the world and was the arbitration forum selected by the contract between the parties should a dispute arise.

The arbitrations were two-tier arbitrations: there was a first tier conducted by three arbitrators, one to be appointed by each of the two parties to the dispute and the third to be appointed by GAFTA; then there was a second tier or appeal stage which was conducted by way of a re-hearing before a board of appeal consisting of members appointed by GAFTA.

Rule 3 of GAFTA's rules provides: "(3) If an arbitrator dies, or refuses to act, or becomes incapable of acting, or fails to proceed with the arbitration... the party appointing such arbitrator shall forthwith appoint a substitute."

Rule 7 provides: "(7) All awards of arbitration shall be in writing on an official form issued by the association and shall be signed by the sole arbitrator or by all members of the tribunal..."

"(2) The award shall state the arbitrators' reasons therefor and whether any sum awarded carries interest thereon."

When a dispute arose between the parties to the sale contract each party appointed an arbitrator. SIMSA appointed Mr Bridge; Cargill appointed Mr Scott and GAFTA appointed Mr Marshall. Mr Scott and Mr Marshall had signed an award relating to the dispute but Mr Bridge had not because he wished to have inserted in the award his own reasons which were inconsistent with or different from the reasons of the other two arbitrators.

The other two arbitrators were unwilling to permit him to insert his own reasons into the award.

GAFTA stated that rule 7(1) required the award to be signed by all members of the tribunal irrespective of whether or not one of the members was in full or part agreement with the final decision.

Cargill called on SIMSA to appoint a substitute arbitrator under rule 3(8) but SIMSA declined, asserting that the fact that an arbitrator refused to sign an award did not of itself constitute a refusal to act within rule 3(8). Accordingly, GAFTA, under rule 3(7) appointed Mr Short on behalf of SIMSA as a substitute arbitrator.

SIMSA now applied for a declaration that the appointment of Mr Short as arbitrator was invalid and that he had no jurisdiction to determine the dispute.

They argued that if an arbitrator wished to insert dissenting reasons into a first tier award, he should be entitled to do so and he did not in so requesting refuse to act or fail to proceed with the arbitration even if he declined to sign the award unless he was permitted to insert the reasons.

SIMSA said it was absolutely fundamental to an arbitrator's duty that he should be given the opportunity of expressing a dissenting view, in particular in a first tier arbitration as here, where the availability of that view on the hearing of an appeal might be of considerable importance and assistance.

His Lordship construed the rules. He said that rule 7(1) made it clear that all the members of the tribunal were to sign an arbitration award. Rule 7(2) made it clear that each award issued should state the arbitrators' reasons for the award.

In rule 7(2) it was instructive to observe that the provision was that the award should state the arbitrators' reasons therefor; that is to say that the award, which

expressed the conclusion of the arbitrators on the dispute in question, should contain the reasons for that conclusion.

Accordingly, rule 7(2) took no account of arbitrators' views which in the case of a minority view might not be the reasons for the award in question. Rule 7(2) was concerned exclusively with the award which the majority made and with the reasons which were the reasons for that award.

If an arbitrator dissented in the sense that he was unable to agree with the majority view, it was accepted on behalf of SIMSA that the majority view prevailed in the sense that an award could only be the majority award. It was not suggested that awards had to be unanimous.

Accordingly, given that rule 7(1) and rule 7(2) envisaged that all GAFTA awards in which there were three arbitrators would be signed by all the members of the tribunal, and that all such GAFTA awards would be either an award with which all three members of the tribunal agreed or would be majority awards, it had to follow that there was an obligation on each of the members of the tribunal to sign each award regardless of whether he agreed or did not agree with the view of the majority.

If an arbitrator declined to sign an award which was a majority award on the ground that he was precluded from inserting or the other arbitrators were unwilling to permit him to insert his own reasons into the award for the view which he held, it was quite impossible to contend that he was complying with rule 7(1).

It was not open to an arbitrator to insist on his own reasons for his own dissenting view being inserted into an award and to withhold his signature of the award until that was done.

Mr Pickering contended that that was professionally unacceptable to an independent arbitrator

and to the whole system of commercial arbitration, because it was requiring an arbitrator to put his signature to something with which he did not agree.

His Lordship was unable to accept that argument. It was absolutely clear to anybody who was concerned with first tier GAFTA awards that they were made on a majority basis and that the signature of members of the tribunal to a particular award did not indicate at all that any single member of the tribunal agreed with the final conclusion.

The only assumption that could be made in relation to the views of the individual members of the tribunal was that at least two of them supported the final conclusion and the award as published. No assumption could be made as to which two and there was no reason why the appointers of the arbitrators should be informed as to the views of the individual members of the tribunal in respect of the ultimate award.

The argument that it was important to have dissenting reasons for the purposes of the appeal system in GAFTA was misconceived. It might well be that it would be useful to have all possible views on the submissions of the respective parties, but at the end of the day the appeal system involved a re-hearing.

It clearly started from the existing award which had been made on a first tier arbitration and as part of that award it had the reasons of at least the majority for arriving at the conclusion which was the basis of the award.

Therefore GAFTA had not misapplied rule 3(8). An arbitrator who would not sign an award for an unjustifiable reason was an arbitrator who either refused to act or failed to proceed with the arbitration within rule 3(8) and accordingly the substituted arbitrator had been validly appointed by GAFTA under rule 3(7).

Solicitors: Mr Brian Perrott, Cobham; Turner & Co.

Tribunals' power to regulate procedure

Eurobell (Holdings) plc v Barker and Another

Before Mr Justice Morison, Lord Glavin of Clee and Miss A. Mackie

[Judgment November 3]

An order made by an industrial tribunal that there should be a simultaneous exchange of witness statements by both parties of all witnesses on whom each party intended to rely and that there should be no further witnesses called at the hearing without the leave of the tribunal was within the tribunal's powers under rules 9 and 13(1) of the Rules of Procedure contained in Schedule 1 to the Industrial Tribunal (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations (SI 1993 No 2267).

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal by the employers, Eurobell (Holdings) plc from an order made by an industrial tribunal sitting at Southampton on November 20, 1996, on complaints of unfair dismissal and breach of contract by the employees, Mrs K. Barker and Mrs G. Markham.

Rule 9 of the 1993 Rules provides: "(1) The tribunal shall make such inquiries of persons appearing before it and witnesses as it considers

appropriate and shall otherwise conduct the hearing in such manner as it considers most appropriate for the clarification of the issues before it and generally to the just handling of the proceedings."

"(2) Subject to paragraph (1), at the hearing of the originating application a party shall be entitled to give evidence, to call witnesses, to question any witness and to address the tribunal."

Rule 13 provides: "(1) Subject to the provision of these rules, a tribunal may regulate its own procedure."

Mr Jonathan Swift for the employers; the employees did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that two questions were raised by counsel's argument:

1 What was the proper construction of the 1993 Rules, and in particular rule 13(1)?

2 What was the status of a so-called practice direction issued by the President of the Industrial Tribunal from which it seemed that the preparation of witness statements in advance of the hearing was regarded as a matter left to the parties' discretion and with which the tribunal's order was said to be inconsistent?

On the first issue, the appeal

tribunal approached the task of construction with a clear disposition in favour of the decision of the industrial tribunal. Case management by an industrial tribunal was critical to a fair, orderly, just and efficient hearing.

It would be regrettable if the rules were so construed that industrial tribunals were not entitled to regulate their own procedure in the way the Southampton industrial tribunal had done.

The right to call witnesses referred to in rule 9(2) was subject to rule 9(1). Sub-rule (1) permitted the tribunal to conduct the hearing in such manner as it considered most appropriate "for the clarification of the issues before it and generally to the just handling of the proceedings."

It seemed clear that a tribunal would be entitled to require a party to tell it the substance of the evidence to be given by a witness before he or she was called to give it.

In appropriate cases a tribunal could require a party to provide it with a written statement of that witness's evidence so that it could carry out its duty under rule 9(1), whether under the power to regulate its own procedure or under the power to make directions conferred by rule 16.

It seemed to the appeal tribunal that a tribunal had the power to require a written statement of evidence in advance of the hearing. Rule 13(1) enabled a tribunal to require a party to do in advance of the hearing what it could do at the hearing.

The direction issued by the President of the Industrial Tribunal had no standing in law. The functions of the president were set out in the 1993 Regulations. He was given no power to make practice directions nor any general power to make orders regulating the tribunal's procedure of a sort which was the equivalent to rule 13(1).

That said, the appeal tribunal could well understand the motives which prompted the president to make such a direction. In the opinion of the President of the Appeal Tribunal, it was desirable that the tribunals sought to agree on what was best practice from the point of view of the judicial management of proceedings and that if necessary, the President of the Industrial Tribunal should be given statutory power to make practice directions which applied country wide.

The appeal would be dismissed. Solicitors: Clifford Chance.

No dissent reasons for arbitrator

Complaint fell outwith rules

Regina v General Medical Council, Ex parte Stewart and Others

A person whose complaint to the General Medical Council about a medical practitioner's professional conduct was unsupported by a statutory declaration or affidavit was not a "complainant" under rules 17, 20 and 48 of the General Medical Council Preliminary Proceedings Committee and Professional Conduct Committee (Procedure) Rules Order of Council (SI 1988 No 225), and accordingly, he was not entitled to receive documentation relating to the

inquiry into the misconduct of a medical practitioner, or to attend the inquiry except as a member of the public.

Mr Justice Lightman, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment on October 8, when dismissing the application of Ian Stewart and others for judicial review of the GMC's decision to refuse (i) to provide them with documentation relating to its inquiry into the professional conduct of three doctors by whom they had been treated; and (ii) to allow them to be present throughout the inquiry, including when in camera, by a legal or other representative.

HIS LORDSHIP said that for the purposes of those rules "complainant" meant the person whose complaint was being proceeded with.

That could not be the applicants first, because rule 6(2) provided that no complaint could proceed beyond consideration by the screening committee unless supported by statutory declaration or affidavit and second, because the solicitor to the GMC made the formal complaint, which resulted in the charges against the doctors.

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

FOOTBALL

Ferdinand puts growing pains into perspective

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HE IS such a glorious prospect, such a vision of elegance as he glides out of the West Ham United defence, hinting at the kind of class in the sweeper role that Glenn Hoddle so desperately desires, that everyone is praying this particular teenager stays on the straight and narrow. So far, the odds have not been good, but no one who loves English football wants to blame it on Rio.

For one so precocious and self-assured on the pitch, so adept at seeing trouble coming and sidestepping it adroitly, Rio Ferdinand has been surprisingly clumsy in getting out of the way when it approaches off the field. There was a dreadful poignancy about his naivety in being arrested for drink-driving after consuming a few bottles of Hooch. His seduction by alcoholic lemonade seemed like a symbol of a young footballer struggling to cope with the pace of growing up.

He lost his driving licence and his place in the full England squad to face Moldova last September — his first senior call-up — because of that incident. A month later, he was brought back into the fold to play in the crucial

Under-21 match against Italy in Rieti, but, after distinguishing himself on the pitch, he was disciplined for what was apparently an insignificant part in some high jinks that occurred later that night.

Once more, there were worried murmurings about whether all the success, the praise that was being heaped upon him, was going to his head. A case of much too



Ferdinand: keeping calm under pressure

much, much too young, perhaps, although those that knew him said that he was a sensible boy. Yesterday, as he prepared to make his England debut on Saturday against Cameroon, the first of what many predict will be a host of caps, Ferdinand, 19 last week, discussed his penitence.

His words match his footballing deeds. He is an impressive young man, articulate and apparently possessed of a keen sense of perspective. When some sought to draw comparisons between his troubles and those that had afflicted Tony Adams, he pointed out that a few bottles of Hooch hardly made him a full-blown alcoholic. When others drew comparisons between him and Bobby Moore, he demurred.

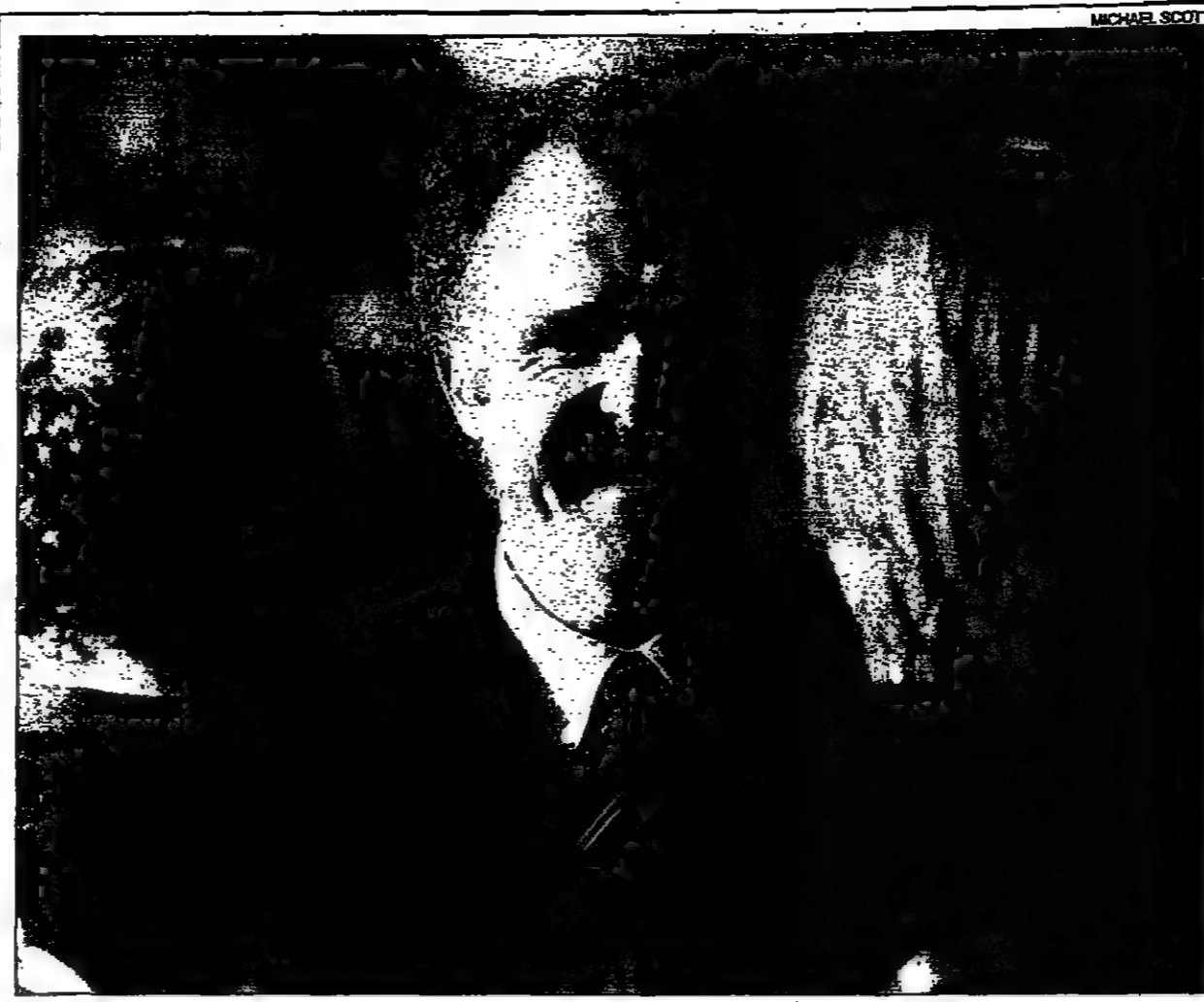
"It is flattering to hear those kind of things said about you," Ferdinand said. "I have read in the papers about how I am the sweeper England needs, but I do not take it all in. If you dwell on things like that, it can lead to your downfall. So I read the papers and then I just chuck them on the back seat."

"If people want to say I am the next Summer [the Germany sweeper] and that I will do this and that for my country, then that is fine but I just want to concentrate on fulfilling my potential. I am working on every part of my game because I want to play for England at the very highest level."

He talked later, with particular feeling, of 12 games that he spent on loan to Bourne-mouth last season, where he washed his own kit and spent lonely nights in his hotel room. When he got back to Upton Park, he had learned to appreciate his good fortune.

"That was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said. "The problems that I had were all about maturity. I am just a young lad. I have just come into the game and I know I have got to mature quickly. You learn from your mistakes and hopefully there will not be any more of them. I do not see that there will be any more problems down the line or in the future."

"You cannot put me in the same thing as an alcoholic because I am not that kind of person and sometimes it bugs me the way people talk about it. I do not want to be reminded of it because it is a dirty stain on my career, but, hopefully, from now on I can let my football do the talking."



Burridge offers a few words of wisdom to two of his Blyth Spartans' players during a training session yesterday

Blyth spirit brings Burridge reminder of former glories

Alan Lee finds a familiar figure

relishing a day trip to Blackpool

AN FA Cup run by the non-league of Blyth Spartans is one of the enduring institutions of football. So, too, is the goalkeeping career of that singular wandering minstrel, John Burridge. On Saturday, perhaps for the last time, the two come as a beguiling package.

For the 23rd time since the Second World War, Blyth have battled through the qualifying stages into the first round proper. Their reward could hardly be more appropriate, for they visit Blackpool, where Burridge made his home and his reputation almost 30 years ago. Now, three weeks short of his 46th birthday, he has delayed his retirement in order to meet this date with destiny.

These days, Blyth play in the Unibond League, at present ineffectually. They languish near the foot of the table and attract an average gate of fewer than 600. Yet their Croft Park ground, hemmed in by the terraced houses of this former mining and shipbuilding town, still reverberates with the club's colourful history, a fact recognised yesterday by a royal visit.

Prince Andrew put the Spartans on his itinerary during his north-eastern stop-off from the farewell tour of



Spartans, ever since, but joined the board only 18 months ago. Burridge arrived at about the same time — an obscure addition to a CV that already included spells with Workington, Blackpool, Aston Villa, Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Sheffield United, Newcastle United, Hibernian and Manchester City — and became player-manager a year ago.

"I'm good at it," he said. "Very good. Our poor position this year is partly my fault, but I've changed the system now and we're on the up. But the time comes when you cannot play and manage. Nobody can, the job's too big, and I would have stood down from the team before now but for this Cup draw."

An expression of wonder enters Burridge's lived-in face whenever Saturday's tie is mentioned. For him, and his remarkable career, it is an evocative pilgrimage, a final wish answered. It was at Blackpool that he made his name; it was also at Blackpool that he flirted with self-destruction.

"We were a poor family from a pit village near Workington," he said. "My dad was a miner and he wanted me to do the same, but mum persuaded him to let me play football for the Town. I didn't even know where Blackpool was."

"It was Bob Stokoe who took me there. He put me straight in the first team, captained by Jimmy Arnfield, and then he put me right when I went off the rails for a few months. Drinking, women, fast cars, they were all involved. One night, I looked at myself in a night-dub mirror and came to my senses. For the rest of my professional career, 28 seasons, I didn't touch a drink."

Burridge, whose wife is from Blackpool, does not permit the shyness of the journey to deflect his conviction. "It will be a wonderful day for me, with all my family there and so many memories — but I believe we will get something out of the game, too." Maybe a replay next to the North Sea at Blyth, with its scrubby terraces, its low-slung floodlights and its newly-unveiled royal plaque.

Injuries force Hoddle's hand

By OLIVER HOLT

ALMOST as if the fates had given Glenn Hoddle one chance, and one chance only, to prepare for an England match with a full complement of players, they abandoned the clean bill of health that they gave him for the showdown with Italy last month and presented him with a slew of problems in advance of the international on Saturday against Cameroon at Wembley.

By far the most serious of these was the news that Tony Adams, part of the spine of the team to which Hoddle often refers, saw a specialist yesterday about a recurrence of an ankle injury and will require an operation that will keep him on the sidelines for a minimum period of six weeks.

Added to the fact that Teddy Sheringham will return to Old Trafford for treatment on his damaged knee today and that there are also concerns about a heavy cold afflicting Paul Scholes and niggling injuries picked up by Gary Neville and Andy Cole, Hoddle may be forced to indulge in the kind of experimentation that he had hoped to avoid.

Adams's misfortune could prove to be Rio Ferdinand's opportunity. Even before the news of the injury to the Arsenal captain was announced, the West Ham United sweeper seemed set to figure in Hoddle's plans, but he now has a heightened chance of winning his first cap by playing from the start, even though the England coach insisted yesterday that it was too late to consider the introduction of the sweeper system for the World Cup finals next year.

Hoddle, though, did not rule out playing Ferdinand as one of a back three or four and he took as his theme the idea that he will go to France without a best 11 in his mind, but rather with a series of options that he could employ in different circumstances.

"If you go with a best 11 and two of them get injured or suspended, then you feel in a negative mood," Hoddle said, "and I do not want to transmit that feeling to the players. I have got more than 22 quality players in this country, anyway. They know it is going to be a bit of a scramble for places and we'll have to break a few hearts."

Ray Houghton, the experienced Reading midfielder, missed the Ireland training session in Dublin yesterday as the team began its preparations for the second leg of the World Cup play-off against Belgium in Brussels on Saturday. Houghton, 35, has a heel injury.

Francis rules out Loftus Road return

MANY Queens Park Rangers supporters will hope Gerry Francis was protesting too much when he angrily and unequivocally distanced himself from a return to Loftus Road yesterday (Matt Dickinson writes).

The Tottenham Hotspur manager remains popular and still has close ties at the club he served well as a player and coach. However, the dismissal of Stewart Houston by QPR at a time when he is considering whether to remain at White Hart Lane is nothing more than coincidence, according to Francis.

"The association with Queens Park Rangers is complete rubbish," he said. "My only thoughts at this moment are for Tottenham Hotspur. It is a total fabrication."

Chris Wright, owner of QPR, was equally quick to try to end the speculation when he claimed that "things are never the same second time

around", and if both men are to be taken at their word, David Platt, sacked by Sheffield Wednesday last week, is expected to be the leading candidate with Charlton Athletic warding off any approach for the highly-rated Alan Curbishley. "I have a few names in my mind but that is all at this stage," Wright said.

Crystal Palace hope to complete the £1.75 million transfer of striker Michele Padovano from Juventus today, a move not without controversy. The 31-year-old forward and his representative could be reported to Fifa by Middlesbrough, who had also agreed a deal but pulled out when the agent allegedly demanded a payment of around £125,000.

A spokesman said: "Middlesbrough were asked to pay a fee to the agent. We are angry and can see no reason why it should be paid. Fifa regulations specifically preclude it."

Strang agrees move to Trent Bridge

By RICHARD HOBSON

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE have confirmed that Paul Strang, the Zimbabwe leg-spinner, is to be their overseas player next season after failing to tempt Shane Warne to Trent Bridge. Strang agreed a two-year contract after meeting club officials, but will miss the start of the 1999 season because of the World Cup.

Last season he took 61 championship wickets and scored 588 runs for Kent, helping them to finish runners-up in three competitions. Although Kent opted to resign Carl Hooper for 1998, Strang said that he was keen to remain in county cricket.

Alan Ormrod, the Nottinghamshire team manager, said: "It is a vital to have the manner of the overseas player resolved early. He should be a

tremendous asset." Ormrod is also confident that Jason Gallian, the former England opening batsman who is leaving Lancashire, will agree to join Nottinghamshire next week.

Surrey have held further talks with Chris Lewis in an attempt to keep the former England all-rounder at the Oval. Lewis has so far declined to sign a new contract with Surrey and is considering a return to Leicestershire.

Vic Dodds, the Surrey cricket committee chairman, said: "He is adamant he wants to captain a side but that is impossible here because we have Adam Hollis." Leicestershire are prepared to make Lewis vice-captain in readiness to succeed James Whitaker.

CRICKET: COUNTIES BEGIN TUSSELE TO LURE DERBYSHIRE BATSMAN

Freed Adams ready to be courted

By SIMON WILLIAMS

CHRIS ADAMS won his lengthy and complex campaign to become a free agent yesterday after a hearing at Lord's at which it was decided, perhaps conveniently for some, that his club had misinterpreted the regulations.

Adams, who had rejected the offer of a new contract from Derbyshire, will now be courted vigorously by several counties, most of whom would have been unable to sign him had he remained a contested — or List One — registration.

Sussex have offered him the club captaincy and the larger salary (thought to be in excess of £80,000) and remain the favourites. Other interested parties include Kent, Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire. Sussex would have been able to sign Adams even if he had stayed on list one — unlike the

other three counties — because they have not used up their allocation of two List One signings in five years.

If Adams does join them, the main significance for Sussex



Adams: in demand

will be that they will be free to attract someone else as a contested registration. An eye-catching possibility is that Sussex will bid for Ben Hollis, Surrey and England's exciting young all-rounder. David Gilbert, who left Surrey to become Sussex's director of cricket last month, said: "To some extent we are pinning our hopes on Chris coming but we must take the opportunity to sign a young, good-quality List One player and help turn this club around."

Adams and his agent put before the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) registration committee the argument that his peculiar circumstances warranted special treatment. He had been

trying to leave Derbyshire — a club fraught with internal wrangling — for three years. Derbyshire finally released him believing that, with a year of his contract to run, he remained on List One. "There was no malice aforethought," Reg Taylor, Derbyshire's representative, said.

Had he remained list one, the ECB would have almost certainly faced a legal challenge to its registrations regulations. As it is, the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) is to draw up proposals to overhaul them before that happens, and the game is plunged into a football-style transfer system.

Adrian Pierson, of Leicestershire, was also moved to List Two but Alex Morris, of Yorkshire, had his List One status upheld.

McGrath and Warne wreck New Zealand

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GLENN MCGRATH and Shane Warne destroyed the New Zealand second innings yesterday to secure a 186-run victory for Australia on the final day of the first Test in Brisbane. Set to score 319 runs for victory on a worn pitch, New Zealand were dismissed for 132 off 62 overs to put Australia one-up in the best-of-three series.

McGrath took four wickets for four runs in one 22-ball spell just before lunch to set up the victory and finished with five for 32, despite being restricted by a groin strain that makes him doubtful for the second Test. It was McGrath's ninth five-wicket haul in Tests, and he had match figures of 7-128 to take his career Test wicket tally to 162.

New Zealand were on 69 for five at lunch, then Adam Parore and Chris Cairns resisted for another 75 minutes before Warne stepped in. The last five wickets went for 20 runs and the leg spinner took three of them. Warne finished with 3-54 off 25 overs for match figures of 7-160.

It was a miserable day for New Zealand, who had kept abreast of their opponents for four days. There were five ducks in the second innings and only four batsmen reached double figures.

Bryan Young, the opener, was top scorer with 45 and Parore, the wicketkeeper, defied the Australia bowlers for over two hours with his unbeaten 39.

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France vs Scotland

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